



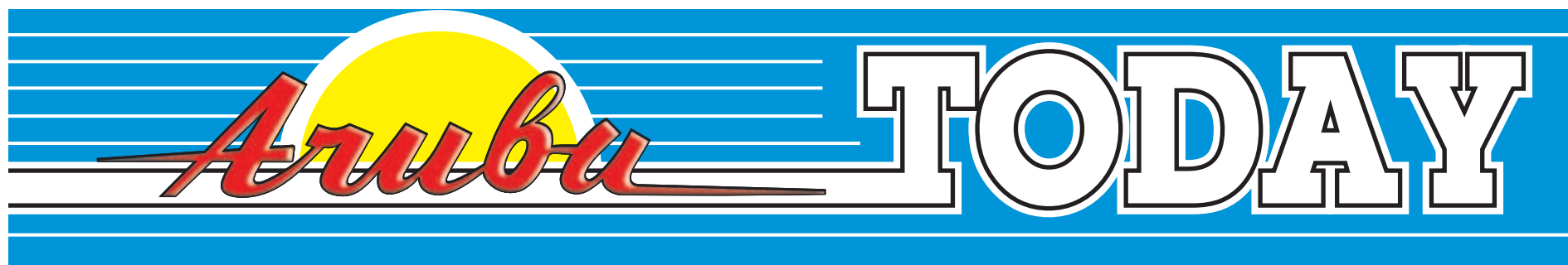
DEATH TOLL SWELLS IN TURKEY'S WORST MINE DISASTER EVER

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THE TRADE-OFFS OF RELOCATING LIFE NORTH TO CANADA

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On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Thursday, May 15, 2014



California Fire Capt. Mark Miller lights a backfire as he and a crew from Oak Glen Fire Camp in Riverside try to knock down a brush fire near Oriole Court in Carlsbad, Calif., on Wednesday, May 14, 2014. Thousands were asked to evacuate their homes in Carlsbad after the blaze erupted at about 10:34 a.m. Wednesday and spread through rapidly heavy brush before jumping into residential areas.

(AP Photo/U-T San Diego, Hayne Palmour IV)

Wildfire Torches Homes in Southern California

CARLSBAD, California (AP) — Flames engulfed suburban homes and shot up along canyon ridges in one of the worst of several blazes that broke out Wednesday in Southern California during a second day of a sweltering heat wave, taxing fire crews who fear the scattered fires mark only

the beginning of a long wildfire season. Thick black smoke darkened blue skies over the Pacific coast city of Carlsbad, north of San Diego, known for its Legoland California amusement park. The park was closed Wednesday because of a power outage caused by the fire.

At least two firefighters suffered minor injuries — one heat-related and one from smoke inhalation — since Tuesday. Thousands were asked to evacuate their homes in Carlsbad after the blaze erupted at about 10:34 a.m. Wednesday and spread through rapidly

heavy brush before jumping into residential areas. Despite a state fire report of 30 homes burned earlier in the day, Carlsbad Fire Chief Michael Davis said he knows of just three homes destroyed and about a dozen damaged, all of them in the same neighborhood.

The wind-driven wildfire tossed embers onto roofs and trees, igniting them. Firefighters found themselves evacuating people and battling the blaze at the same time, Nick Schuler of Cal Fire said.

Continued on page 4

Death toll swells in Turkey's worst-ever mine disaster

DESMOND BUTLER

SUZAN FRASER

Associated Press

SOMA, Turkey (AP) — Amid wails of grief and anger, rescue workers coated in grime trudged repeatedly out of a coal mine Wednesday with stretchers of bodies that swelled the death toll to 274 — the worst such disaster in Turkish history.

Hopes faded for 150 others still trapped deep underground in smoldering tunnels filled with toxic gases. Anti-government protests broke out in the mining town of Soma, as well as Istanbul and the capital, Ankara, with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan heckled as he tried to show concern. Protesters shout-

ed "Murderer!" and "Thief!" and Erdogan was forced to seek refuge in a supermarket, surrounded by police. The display of anger could have significant repercussions for the Turkish leader, who is widely expected to run for president in the August election, although he has not yet announced his candidacy.

Tensions were high as hundreds of relatives and miners jostled outside the mine's entrance Wednesday, waiting for news amid a heavy police presence. Rows of women wailed uncontrollably and men knelt sobbing or simply stared in disbelief as rescue workers removed body after body, some charred beyond rec-

ognition.

One elderly man wearing a prayer cap wailed after he recognized one of the dead, and police had to restrain him from climbing into an ambulance with the body. An injured rescue worker who emerged alive was whisked away on a stretcher to the cheers of onlookers.

Energy Minister Taner Yildiz said 787 people were inside the coal mine at the time of Tuesday's explosion: 274 died and 363 were rescued, including scores who were injured.

The death toll topped a 1992 gas explosion that killed 263 workers near Turkey's Black Sea port of Zonguldak. It also left 150 miners still unaccounted for.

Yildiz said rescue workers were trying late Wednesday to reach the bodies of up to 22 people trapped in one zone. Some of the workers were 1,400 feet (420 meters) deep inside the mine, he said.

One rescue worker who declined to be named said he led a 10-man team about a half-mile down into the mine's tunnels, where they recovered three bodies before being forced to flee because of smoke from burning coal. Rescue operations were halted for several hours into Thursday morning because high gas concentrations in the mine needed to be cleared.

Giza Nergiz, a 28-year-old English teacher, said some of the victims had complained about safety at the mine.

"We buried three of our high school friends today," she said, walking with her husband Onur Nergiz, a 30-year-old mine administrator. "A lot of people were complaining about safety, but nobody (in management) was doing anything about it."

Erdogan declared three days of national mourning and postponed a trip to Albania to visit the mine in Soma, 155 miles (250 kilometers) south of Istanbul. He warned that some radical groups would try to use the disaster to discredit his government. □



A man cries over the body of a miner being carried outside the coal mine in Soma, Turkey, Wednesday, May 14, 2014. Rescuers desperately raced against time to reach more than 150 miners still trapped underground Wednesday after an explosion and fire at the coal mine on Tuesday killed at least 274 workers.

(AP Photo/Depo Photos)

Extremists attack town of abducted schoolgirls

HARUNA UMAR

ADAMU ADAMU

Associated Press

BAUCHI, Nigeria (AP) — Islamic militants again attacked the remote Nigerian town from which nearly 300 schoolgirls were kidnapped, Nigeria's military said Wednesday, resulting in a firefight that killed 12 soldiers and led angry troops to fire on a commanding officer. Soldiers said the troops fired at a senior officer who came to pay respects to the killed soldiers, whose bodies were brought to a barracks in Maiduguri, the capital of northeastern Bor-

no state.

It's another sign of demoralization in the military that is in charge of the search for the abducted schoolgirls. The failure of Nigeria's government and military to find them after the April 15 mass abduction has triggered national and international outrage and forced Nigeria's government to accept international help last week.

Nigeria's Ministry of Defense played down Wednesday's shooting incident, saying soldiers "registered their anger about the incident by firing into the air. The situation has since

been brought under control, as there is calm in the cantonment" in Maiduguri, about 130 kilometers north of Chibok, where the girls were abducted.

But soldiers who were at the scene at Mailamari Barracks said infuriated troops fired directly at the vehicle carrying Maj. Gen. Ahmadu Mohammed, the general officer commanding the army's 7 Division. He was not hit.

The witnesses said the soldiers were angry because they wanted to spend the night in a village and told their command the road was dangerous after the

attack around Chibok. They were ordered to travel instead and were ambushed, with at least 12 killed.

The soldiers spoke on condition of anonymity because they want to keep their jobs.

The Ministry of Defense, which often exaggerates the number of enemy killed and downplays its own losses, said four soldiers were killed along with several insurgents.

"Troops engaged the insurgents in a fierce combat and extricated themselves from the ambush killing several insurgents. □

Kerry meets with Palestinian leader in London

LONDON (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry worked Wednesday to keep the Palestinians com-

time since peace negotiations collapsed last month. Kerry, who is in London for talks with international

ing, Kerry reiterated U.S. support for the Palestinian people. "Secretary Kerry made

nine months of discussions amid one-sided moves by both the Palestinians and Israelis.

parts of the West Bank.

Abbas wants to set up a unity government with Hamas by the end of the month. He says the new government will be bound by his plan to seek peace with Israel — something he hopes will allay U.S. concerns about a partnership with militants who refuse to renounce violence.

The reconciliation with Hamas presents a difficult problem for Kerry's peace effort because Israel says it won't negotiate with any government backed by Hamas, which has killed hundreds of Israelis in attacks over the years.

Psaki said Kerry reiterated the need for any Palestinian government to recognize Israel, commit to non-violence and abide by previous agreements."

Congressional Republicans and Democrats have signaled that any permanent arrangement between the Western-backed Palestinian Authority and Hamas would force the United States to end some \$400 million in economic and security aid provided annually. □



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry arrives at Stansted Airport outside of London, where he attended meetings on Syria with the London 11, Wednesday, May 14, 2014.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin, Pool)

mitted to his hope of restarting Mideast peace talks despite Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' move to set up an interim government with a militant group that refuses to recognize Israel.

Kerry met with Abbas in a London hotel for the first

partners about the Syrian civil war and political unrest in Ukraine, said he planned to have an informal meeting with Abbas and that he did not plan to offer any proposals.

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said that during the two-hour meet-

clear that while the door remains open to peace, it is up to the parties to determine whether they are willing to take the steps necessary to resume negotiations," she said "He again urged both sides to refrain from unhelpful steps."

The talks fell apart after

Round 2 as Health Nominee Reappears Before Senators

ROBERT PEAR

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WASHINGTON — Sylvia Mathews Burwell, President Barack Obama's nominee for secretary of health and human services, is scheduled to testify Wednesday at a confirmation hearing before the Senate Finance Committee, where she is expected to face tougher questions but no more hostility than she encountered before a separate panel last week.

The hearing will probably focus on the Affordable Care Act, as Democrats try to show its strengths and Republicans try to put the focus on its weaknesses. The health law, passed in 2010 without any Republican votes, has emerged as an issue in many of this year's midterm elections.

If confirmed, as expected, Burwell would replace Kathleen Sebelius, the fed-

eral health secretary for the past five years. Finance Committee members, frequently frustrated in their dealings with Sebelius, will urge Burwell to be more forthcoming and candid, even if she disagrees with them on the substance of policy.

Burwell may face questions about states like Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts and Oregon, which built their own health insurance websites with hundreds of millions of federal dollars but experienced severe operational and technical problems.

It is unclear whether states can receive more federal money to repair or replace problem-plagued exchanges — but Burwell will most likely be asked about it.

Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., has been supportive of Burwell, and an aide said that



Sylvia Mathews Burwell, President Barack Obama's nominee for Secretary of Health and Human Services, testifies during a Senate Finance Committee hearing on her nomination on Capitol Hill in Washington, May 14, 2014.

(Gabiella Demczuk/The New York Times)

Coburn was planning to introduce her, as Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., did before last week's hearing.

It was an approach that worked for Marilyn B.

Tavener, a former Virginia state official who was confirmed last year as administrator of the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services by a 91-7

vote. She had strong backing from the House majority leader, Eric Cantor, R-Va. In a C-Span interview last month, Coburn described □

Wildfire Torches Homes in Southern California



A firefighter pours water onto a fully engulfed home Wednesday, May 14, 2014, in Carlsbad, Calif. A brush fire Wednesday forced evacuation of thousands of people in the city of Carlsbad where at least two homes burned amid a Southern California heat wave that sparked several blazes.

(AP Photo)

Continued from Front

He said the fire's forward spread had been stopped, but hotspots remain. More than 50 engines are coming in from around the state to help in San Diego County.

A steady stream of residents stopped at a roadblock on a four-lane thoroughfare as they tried to return home to collect valuables. Richard Sanchez watched nervously as a plume of black smoke rose near his home. He had left his house an hour earlier in sandals to run an errand.

As authorities yelled "Please evacuate!" in Joe Post's Carlsbad neighborhood, he grabbed a garden hose and doused a palm tree in flames between his home and his neighbor's. He debated about leaving his home but was worried what he might find upon returning.

Three elementary schools were evacuated and expected to remain closed for the week. The students were among thousands in the area of north San Diego County who were told to evacuate because of various wildfires. Another wildfire further north forced the evacuation of residents in military housing at Camp Pendleton, and the closure of an elementary school on the Marine Corps base. A third fire spread from a burning vehicle on coastal Interstate 5 to roadside brush near the northwest corner of the Marine base. □



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National park statistics show camping drop

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The number of overnight camping stays in national parks has declined in the past 15 years.

More than 9.2 million overnight camping stays were recorded in the national parks 15 years ago in 1998. The number dropped to 8.54 million five years later in 2003; 7.99 million five years after that in 2008, and 7.91 million last year, in 2013.

The statistics include tent camping as well as RVs, backcountry camping and stays in campgrounds operated by concessions. National Park Service spokesman Jeffrey Olson said the decline began in the mid-1990s but began to level out around 2004. The numbers do fluctuate from year to year, however, with some years showing increases.

Camping and overall park visitation is affected by everything from the weather to the economy. In 2013, visitation to national parks was hurt by the government shut-down in October.

Overall national park visits were down 3 percent in 2013 from 2012, so it's not surprising that camping stays dropped as well, from nearly 8.4 million in 2012 to last year's 7.9 million.

But in 2002, the year after the Sept. 11th attacks, when some travelers chose drive-to destinations over air travel, camping numbers were robust, with 8.7 million camping stays in the parks — though still lower than in 1998.

Camping numbers spiked in 2009 and 2010 as well, to more than 8.5 million each year, when the weak economy may have encouraged some travelers to stay closer to home rather than buying plane tickets.

Olson says more lodging options near parks is also a major factor in the long-term decline. □

Boy survives 11-story fall from US building

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A young boy who survived an 11-story fall from a high-rise has been dubbed "the miracle baby" and was recovering in a hospital Wednesday. Fifteen-month-old Musa Dayib suffered a broken spine and ribs as well as a concussion and a punctured lung. Musa's relatives believe he slipped through the railing of his family's apartment balcony Sunday evening.

The boy was in critical but stable condition Wednesday, Hennepin County Medical Center spokeswoman Christine Hill said.

Dr. Tina Slusher of the hospital's pediatric intensive

care unit told the Star Tribune that Musa landed on a small patch of mulch.

"If you and I fell that far, we would be dead," Slusher said. "He's a kid. So they tend to be more flexible and pliable than you and I would be. Having said that, it's a real gift from God that he made it because this is a huge fall."

A group of Somali-Americans who live in the area quickly gathered as emergency workers treated the boy and an ambulance took him to the hospital, said community activist Abdirizak Bihi.

"When people found out he survived, no one could

believe it," Bihi said.

Bihi said the child's mother was running errands while his father watched the boy and his 3-year-old sister. The father had gone briefly into another room when the boy fell, Bihi said.

In a statement released by hospital officials, the parents said they were thankful for the "continued prayers for Musa and his family at this time."

The owner of the apartment building met with community members to discuss measures to keep children safe.

At a tenants' meeting Tuesday night, Riverside Plaza owner George Sherman

said maintenance staff will close off balcony doors for any tenant who asks, according to Minnesota Public Radio News.

Sherman said he's also checking to see what sort of permanent childproof locks are allowed under the fire code.

The balcony meets requirements under city building codes. The vertical rods under the railing are 5.5 inches (14 centimeters) apart, a larger space than today's building code requires, according to Minneapolis city building official Patrick Higgins. However, updates to the code are grandfathered in. □

Bill Clinton vouches for Hillary's health



Former President Bill Clinton laughs as he answers a question from Gwen Ifill of PBS NewsHour regarding Republicans' questions regarding Hillary Rodham Clinton's head injury, Wednesday, May 14, 2014, at the 2014 Fiscal Summit organized by the Peter G. Peterson Foundation in Washington. Lawmakers and policy experts discussed America's long term debt and economic future.

(AP Photo)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Bill Clinton said Wednesday his wife Hillary took six months to recover from a 2012 concussion, adding she is now "stronger than I am" as he dismissed Republican strategist Karl Rove's comments about her health.

"I got to give him credit, you know, that embodies that old saying that 'consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds,'" Bill Clinton said at a Washington conference. "First they said she

faked her concussion. And now they say she's auditioning for a part on 'The Walking Dead.'"

The former secretary of state fell ill with a stomach bug in December 2012 after returning from a trip to Europe, leaving her severely dehydrated. While at home, she fainted and fell, suffering a concussion. The illness forced her to reschedule her testimony to Congress about the deadly attack months earlier in Benghazi, Libya.

The New York Post reported Tuesday that Rove suggested at a private conference near Los Angeles last week that Clinton suffered brain damage. Rove disputed that he was referring to any brain damage.

"I didn't say she had brain damage. I said she had a serious health episode," he said on Fox News.

Rove told Fox News, for which he is a commentator, that Clinton had a "serious health episode" that would be a legitimate issue

for her in a potential bid for the Democratic presidential nomination "whether she likes it or not."

Clinton allies and the White House pushed back on Rove's comments, and Bill Clinton said he was "sort of dumbfounded" by the remarks.

"Look, she works out every week, she is strong, she's doing great. As far as I can tell, she's in better shape than I am," the former president said.

After Hillary Clinton's concussion, doctors discovered a blood clot in a vein that runs between the skull and the brain behind her right ear and she was admitted to New York-Presbyterian Hospital for treatment with blood thinners. She was released after a brief hospitalization.

Bill Clinton said it was serious and took her six months to recover.

The former president also defended his wife's response to the Sept. 11, 2012 Benghazi attack that killed four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens.

His comments came as the House pushes ahead with a special select committee to investigate the attacks, U.S. security at the diplomatic mission, the military's response and the Obama administration's explanation of what happened. □

Kelly Column:

The Trade-Offs of Relocating North to Canada

CAITLIN KELLY

© 2014 New York Times

It's a nearby country where most natives speak English and there are few major cultural differences from the United States. Yet the number of Americans choosing to head north to retire in Canada has remained low - reaching a high of 1,675 in 2008 (for immigrants older than 49), then dipping to 1,060 in 2011, and rising again in 2013 to an estimated 1,565. Recent changes to immigration law have dimmed Canada's appeal somewhat, certainly to wealthy would-be residents, who

grave health care from the government, remain deeply appealing. So, too, is the draw of a country with spectacular landscapes and, in some places, more affordable real estate.

"I have a garden! I have a tractor!" said Dr. David Bannon, president of the Medical Society of Prince Edward Island. For him, life in Canada's smallest province - with 140,000 inhabitants, an island so small it shares an area code with the province of Nova Scotia - is heaven. He moved to Canada in 1992 after growing up in Los Angeles, studying in Chicago and

Canada's medical system firsthand. The major differences between the United States and Canada are less medical than cultural, he said, evident in Canadian patients' tolerance for wait times and moderated expectations of their health care providers. "Canadian systems work because they've been regionalized in order to cut costs," he explained. An American regional hospital will offer a broader menu of services, and "you'll get those services here, but you'll have to travel to a larger city for them." These include MRIs, CT scans and

Brogdon paid \$1,000 from her own pocket for quick access to an MRI, while their provincial health plan reimbursed them for the airfare, since the specialist was unavailable locally. Her daughter, suffering from shoulder pain, didn't want to wait any longer for a diagnosis and treatment plan.

Brogdon's family also went almost five years without a family physician, relying on walk-in clinics and her hospital's emergency room, an experience she calls "horrible."

Americans who are not yet Canadian residents but hope to retire there should start planning at least two to four years in advance, allowing enough time to meet federal and provincial requirements, said David Aujla, an immigration lawyer in Victoria, British Columbia. Since 2008, the Progressive Conservative party has changed the way potential immigrants are selected, restricting the list of eligible skilled occupations to only about 30; previously most professional, technical and management occupations were acceptable, Aujla said. Potential residents can get health coverage within three months of obtaining a work permit or permanent status. They do not have to be citizens to receive it.

To obtain a work permit, Aujla advises his older clients to attend a Canadian college or university on a student visa and obtain a degree, after which they will be given a three-year permit.

"You're already acclimated. You've got a network," he said. And Canadian universities are often more affordable: Graduate tuition for international students at the public University of Toronto, ranked highly in an annual survey by Maclean's magazine, is between 16,886 and 48,293 Canadian dollars a year, depending on the degree. In January, Canada's currency hit its lowest value - 89.7 cents to the U.S. dollar

- since April 2007, reducing the cost further for Americans.

It is also possible for Americans to obtain work permits in 60 professional job categories found in the North American Free Trade Agreement. This avenue gives expedited and easy entry for those potential immigrants who have a signed employment agreement with a Canadian employer. "If you are highly skilled, age doesn't matter at all," said Aujla, "but it's middle management that the government is very tough in screening." Alternatively, if you can prove that you have a viable business, you can apply to the government of whichever province you've chosen to live in. If your application is approved, it then goes to the federal government, an interview process that takes about two years, Aujla said. "There's no age limit for business owners."

The third category under which immigration is possible is "self-employed," reserved for farmers, athletes and artists. "The key is to show you've been viable and can produce income," which can be as low as \$40,000 to \$60,000 a year, Aujla said. But applicants must also prove, according to the requirements of Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the country's immigration department, that they intend to make "a significant contribution to the cultural or athletic life of Canada." Someone hoping to teach piano in Toronto, the country's largest city, might have less success winning government approval than someone willing to move to a small town in British Columbia, for example. Canadians also face higher taxes, some of which pay for the health care system available to everyone. "We pay them willingly, not gladly," says Joseph Green, 79, a retired American who taught for years at Toronto's York University and now lives in downtown Toronto. □



Dr. David Bannon, a general surgeon, outside his home on Prince Edward Island in Canada, May 9, 2014. The relatively few Americans who move to Canada often find that they enjoy the country's more liberal policies and free health care, though there are adjustments to make. "I'm happier here than I've ever been," Bannon said. (Daniel St. Louis/The New York Times)

were once eligible to immigrate if they had a net worth of \$1.6 million and could offer an \$800,000 interest-free, five-year loan to the federal government. That program, which attracted some people with money but little commitment to Canadian life, was dropped in February, and 50,000 applications are to be returned, some to potential immigrants who have been waiting more than four years.

But for some Americans, Canada's more liberal social and economic policies, including cradle-to-

practicing medicine in Fargo, North Dakota, and Key West, Florida.

Woored north by his wife, who is originally from Prince Edward Island, Bannon said: "I'm happier here than I've ever been. I've done so much better here financially." When he left Florida, his malpractice insurance cost \$50,000 annually. On Prince Edward Island, thanks to a provincial government subsidy, his annual cost of \$8,000 is reduced to just \$1,000 a year.

As a general surgeon still in practice, Bannon knows

other complex and expensive tests.

Some areas also have very few family physicians able to take on new patients. Katrina Brogdon, a Texas-born elementary school principal in Whitehorse, a city in northern Canada's Yukon Territory, has experience with that, with two children active in competitive athletics. Faced with an eight-month wait for an MRI and a two-hour flight to Edmonton or Vancouver to get it, Brogdon and her daughter, a competitive swimmer, flew to Vancouver on their own.

New report highlights child labor on US tobacco farms

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — An international rights group is pushing the federal government and the tobacco industry to take further steps to protect children working on U.S. tobacco farms.

A report released Wednesday by Human Rights Watch claims that children as young as 7 are sometimes working long hours in fields harvesting nicotine- and pesticide-laced tobacco leaves under sometimes hazardous conditions. Most of what the group documented is legal, but it wants cigarette makers to push for safety on farms from which they buy tobacco.

Human Rights Watch details findings from interviews with more than 140 children working on farms in North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia, where a majority of the country's tobacco is grown.

"The U.S. has failed America's families by not meaningfully protecting child farmworkers from dangers to their health and safety, including on tobacco farms," said Margaret Wurth, children's rights researcher and co-author of the report.

Human Rights Watch met with many of the world's biggest cigarette makers and tobacco suppliers to discuss its findings and push them to adopt or strengthen policies to prevent the practices in their supply chains.

The companies say they are concerned about child labor in their supply chains and have developed standards, including requiring growers to provide a safe work environment and adhere to child labor laws, the group said. "This report uncovers serious child labor abuses that should not occur on any farm, anywhere," Andre Calantzopoulos, CEO of Philip Morris International Inc., the world's second-biggest cigarette seller, said in a statement. "More work remains to be done to eliminate child and other labor abuses in tobacco growing." Altria Group Inc., owner of the nation's biggest cigarette maker, Philip Morris USA, said it wants suppliers to follow the law. But Altria spokesman Jeff Caldwell also said that restricting tobacco work to people 18 and over "is really contrary to a lot of the current practices that are in place in the U.S. and is at odds in these communities where family farming is really a way of life."

About 736,500 children under 18 were reported to have worked on U.S. farms in 2012, but there are no figures for children working on tobacco farms, according to the federally funded National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety.

Less than 1 percent of U.S. farmland grows tobacco, according to the 2012 Census of Agriculture.

According to the Human Rights Watch report, U.S. agriculture labor laws allow children to work longer hours at younger ages and in more hazardous conditions than children in any other industry. With their parent's permission, children as young as 12 can be hired for unlimited hours outside of school hours on a farm of any size. And there's no minimum age for children to work on small farms. In 2011, the Labor Department proposed changes that would have prohibited children under 16 from working on tobacco farms, but they were withdrawn in 2012. Nearly three-quarters of the children interviewed in 2012 and 2013 reported vomiting, nausea and headaches while working on tobacco farms. The symptoms they reported are consistent with nicotine poisoning often called Green Tobacco Sickness, which occurs when workers absorb nicotine through their skin while handling tobacco plants.

Those interviewed, many of whom were children of Hispanic immigrants but were often U.S. citizens themselves, also reported worked long hours, often in extreme heat, without overtime pay or sufficient breaks and wore no, or inadequate, protective gear. □

US Financial Front: America's producer prices jump in April



Anthony Zingale wires blender motors at the Vitamix manufacturing facility in Strongsville, Ohio. The Labor Department released the Producer Price Index for April on Wednesday, May 14, 2014. (AP Photo/Mark Duncan)

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The prices that U.S. companies receive for their goods and services rose in April by the most in 19 months, a sign that inflation may be picking up from very low levels. The producer price index rose a seasonally adjusted 0.6 percent from March to April, the Labor Department said Wednesday, after a 0.5 percent increase from February to March. April's increases were led by higher food prices and greater retailer and wholesaler profit margins. Over the past 12 months, producer prices have risen 2.1 percent, the biggest 12-month gain in more than two years. That figure is roughly in line with the Federal Reserve's 2 percent inflation target. The producer price index measures price changes before they reach consumers.

Excluding the volatile categories of food, energy and retailer and wholesaler margins, however, the month-to-month increase in April was smaller: Core prices rose 0.3 percent from March.

Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, noted that the profit margins

dropped sharply over the winter before increasing in the past two months, "so we can't yet say an upward trend is emerging." Still, the report suggests that inflation may be picking up after coming in below 2 percent for two years.

That could reflect better economic health: Higher inflation is generally a sign of rising consumer demand. Paul Dales, an economist at Capital Economics, noted that a sharp gain in profit margins for machinery and equipment wholesalers drove overall margins higher. That's a sign that companies are stepping up their purchases of large equipment after a weak first quarter, Dales said.

A key question is whether the sharp increases in producer prices of the past two months will flow into consumer prices.

Wage increases have been weak, and unemployment remains high at 6.3 percent. The squeeze for consumers means that manufacturers and retailers haven't been able to raise prices much.

April's consumer price index will be released Thursday.

Dales forecasts that consumers will pay a bit more

by 2015.

"We are expecting the stronger economic recovery and rising wage growth to push core (consumer) inflation above 2 percent next year," he said.

The two months of big increases have lifted wholesale inflation from historically low levels. The producer price index rose just 1.2 percent in 2013 after a 1.4 percent increase in 2012.

Food costs jumped 2.7 percent in April, the highest in more than three years, driven by an 8.4 percent increase in meat prices.

Profit margins received by retailers and wholesalers rose 1.4 percent in April, the same as in the previous month. Margins are rebounding after sharp drops over the winter months.

Profits had been held down by discounting after the winter holidays and by harsh weather in January and February that kept shoppers at home.

Low inflation has enabled the Fed to pursue extraordinary stimulus programs to try to boost spending, hiring and economic growth. It has begun to unwind some of its stimulus, cutting its monthly bond purchases to \$45 billion from \$85 billion last year. □

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New York Minute:

New Rowhouses Fill a Hole in Heart of Brooklyn

DAVID W. DUNLAP

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NEW YORK - On a sidewalk along State Street, cater-corner from the foreboding Brooklyn Correction Complex, new graffiti appeared over the weekend. The message was clearly meant to be scanned from the bottom

strait and imagination.

For starters, they furnished 16 houses with stoops. "You need the stoop to create street life," Marvel said. "The stoop becomes the amphitheater."

The redbrick stoop houses are interspersed with three houses in pale cream-colored brick and

basements and imposing parlor floors - align with one another and with those of five landmark brownstones that survive in their midst.

"We were cognizant of not being too modern in our approach," said Abby C. Hamlin, president of Hamlin Ventures, who developed the rowhouses with Francis J. Green-

million that Hamlin and Greenburger paid 12 years ago for almost the entire city block bounded by State, Hoyt, Schermerhorn and Smith streets.

At the time of the purchase, the block was empty of buildings, except for the five noble Italianate brownstones that were built in the 1870s. They were designated landmarks in 1973, as were 18 serene Greek Revival and Italianate rowhouses on the opposite side of State Street.

Much of the block had been cleared in the 1920s to permit construction of the Independent Subway System. The Hoyt-Schermerhorn station on the A, C and G lines is only about three feet below street level at the northeast corner of the block, Hamlin said. An Edison ParkFast lot is there.

The expense and complication of building over a subway line were among many things - including strong neighborhood opposition and the near-bankruptcy in 1975 of the state's Urban Development Corp. - that stymied redevelopment of the block in recent decades. To acquire the enormous site from the Empire State Development Corp., successor to the Urban Development Corp., Hamlin and Greenburger had to provide affordable housing on the block.

They donated a parcel on Schermerhorn Street to a joint venture of Common Ground and the Actors Fund, which developed an 11-story, \$59 million building with 217 studio apartments for single adults on low incomes. Some tenants are living with HIV and AIDS, some were homeless, some work in the performing arts, some have mental health problems. Social services are provided in the building. The ground floor is occupied by the Actors Fund Art Center theater and the Brooklyn Ballet.

Yards away, but a world apart, Kate Perry hurried to spin class from the State Street town house in which she and her husband have lived for 32 years. "We were thrilled when the new houses were built," she said. "The street feels complete now."



A row of new townhouses on State Street in the Brooklyn borough of New York, May 8, 2014. The rowhouses bookend a row of landmark brownstones with designs meant to complement them while remaining modern. (Uli Seit/The New York Times)

up. The first line read, "1." The next, "2/3." Then, "4." Then, "5/6." It was an impromptu hopscotch board and the chalky signpost of a remarkable development: 23 new rowhouses that have helped close a long-open wound in Boerum Hill, on the edge of downtown Brooklyn.

Families with young children (and plenty of money) have moved in. It is one thing to fashion a residential project 505 feet high, stacking residents who barely know their neighbors' names on top of one another. Marvel Architects had the chance to fashion a residential project 505 feet long and create a place in which neighbors might grow together.

The principal architects, Jonathan J. Marvel and Nebil Gokcebay, designed with intelligence, re-

three in charcoal-gray brick. One is clad in copper panels. "After a couple of glasses of wine, you can come home and find your own house," Marvel said. That is, if you can see it through the lush canopy created by the littleleaf lindens that have been planted in front of the new homes.

Though simple, the buildings have intriguing details that repay many glances, as good houses do. For example, six have thin black window frames that appear to emerge from or recede into the brick walls. Closer inspection reveals that the window frames are all the same depth. It is the angle of the walls that changes.

Despite such distinctions, the houses appear to form a cohesive whole. In part, that is because their principal elements - roof lines,

burger, chairman and chief executive of Time Equities.

Hamlin said the designs were reviewed by the Hoyt-Schermerhorn Community Task Force in the borough president's office. "The community had to get comfortable," she said.

In 2007, the first 14 houses were completed to the west of the landmark row. They sold out at an average of \$2.6 million each, Hamlin said. The nine houses at the east end of the block are nearing completion, at a cost of about \$24 million. Their average sales price was \$3.6 million each.

The last available house, the copper-clad bookend at the corner of Hoyt Street, is expected to close on Thursday for \$4.2 million, Hamlin said.

That is not much less than the \$4.65



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Ukraine begins peace talks without separatists

**YURAS KARMANAU
NATALIYA VASILYEVA**

Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — European-backed peace talks on ending Ukraine's crisis began with little promise Wednesday when pro-Russian insurgents — who weren't even invited to the session — demanded that the Kiev government recognize their sovereignty. The "road map" put forth by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe calls for national dialogue as a first step toward resolving the escalating tensions, in which the insurgents have seized government buildings in eastern Ukraine and declared independence, while government forces have mounted limited offensives to retake control of the region. But instead of a dialogue, the day was more a case of competing monologues, with the two sides as far

apart as ever.

Denis Pushilin, a leader of the insurgency in the city of Donetsk, said his faction was not invited to the government-organized roundtable in Kiev, and that the "talks with Kiev authorities could only be about one thing: the recognition of the Donetsk People's Republic." Acting President Oleksandr Turchynov said in his opening remarks at the Kiev talks that authorities were "ready for a dialogue," but insisted they will not talk to the pro-Russia gunmen, which the government has denounced as "terrorists." "Those armed people who are trying to wage a war on their own country, those who are with arms in their hands trying to dictate their will, or rather the will of another country — we will use legal procedures against them and they will face justice," he said.

The talks lasted 2 1/2 hours

and ended inconclusively, with only a vague plan to meet again in a few days. Ukraine's crisis began with mass protests last winter

ing demonstrators killed by snipers alleged to have been police.

The protests included a strong faction of Ukrainian

took over as a junta bent on repressing them.

The Black Sea peninsula of Crimea voted to secede in March and was quickly annexed by Russia. Armed men seized police stations and other buildings in a large swath of eastern Ukraine.

Kiev and the West alleged Russia was fomenting the unrest, which Moscow denies. The U.S. and European Union has imposed sanctions on Russia in the crisis. Ukraine's economy was in perilous shape even before the protests, and months of constant disorder have raised fears of severe suffering.

Rinat Akhmetov, regarded as Ukraine's richest industrialist and an influential figure in the Donetsk region, made a rare public statement Wednesday urging the region to remain part of Ukraine.



Denis Pushilin, a leader of the insurgency that has declared an independent "people's republik" in the Donetsk region, speaks at a news conference in eastern Ukraine city of Donetsk on Wednesday May 14, 2014. Pushilin said his faction wasn't invited to government-organized roundtable talks in Kiev.

(AP Photo/Evgeniy Maloletka)

against Russia-friendly President Viktor Yanukovich, who eventually fled to Russia in late February amid rising bloodshed, includ-

nationalists. Predominantly Russian-speaking regions of eastern and southern Ukraine denounced the government in Kiev that

Continued on page 27

Yemen Army and al-Qaida battle; 42 dead

**AHMED AL-HAJ
Associated Press**

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Fierce fighting between soldiers and al-Qaida militants in southern Yemen killed at least 42 people Wednesday, as families fled past destroyed homes, burning cars and streets littered with corpses, witnesses and officials said. The fighting in the town of Azzan in Shabwa province comes amid an ongoing army offensive against al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, Yemen's local branch of the terror group that the U.S. considers the world's most dangerous. Al-Qaida militants tried to retake the town in a dawn attack as government war-

planes and naval forces bombed militants hiding in homes, officials said. Soldiers battled militants for hours in street-to-street clashes.

Maj. Gen. Ahmed Seif al-Yafie said that the fighting killed at least 30 al-Qaida militants, including six of the local leaders of the terror group. He did not offer casualty figures for government forces.

Yemeni security officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity as they weren't authorized to brief journalists, said the clashes killed at least 12 government troops. It wasn't immediately clear if there were civilian casualties.

Al-Yafie also said al-Qaida

militants used child soldiers in the fighting, without elaborating.

The military warned residents by loudspeaker to either leave the town or not to provide shelter to militants during the fighting.

Mahmoud al-Ayashi, a resident who fled the town with his family, said that the bombardment from the two sides turned the town into an inferno.

"This town has seen so many battles before but this is the worst," he said. "I saw cars on fire, bodies in the streets, including those in military uniform."

Al-Ayashi said he saw whole families packing belongings into their cars to flee.

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In push for unity: Hamas clears out of Abbas' Gaza home

KARIN LAUB
Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Hamas on Wednesday cleared out of the private Gaza residence of Palestinian President Mahmoud

more compelling reasons than in the past to strike a compromise. Hamas has faced growing regional isolation and a crippling financial crisis in recent months, largely a re-

The ideological gap between Abbas and Hamas remains wide, and a temporary government of technocrats is meant to paper over those differences.



Palestinian officers of Hamas security forces walk out of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's house while they clear the house before they give it to Fatah representatives in Gaza City, in the northern Gaza Strip, Wednesday, May 14, 2014.

(AP Photo/Adel Hana)

Abbas, in the most concrete sign yet that the rivals are moving toward reconciliation. The Islamic militant Hamas took over the residence when it seized Gaza from the Western-backed Abbas in 2007, leaving him with only parts of the West Bank. Since then, the rivals have become entrenched in their respective territories, setting up separate governments. Repeated reconciliation efforts have failed, but the current one might have a better chance because both sides seem to have

sult of an asphyxiating border closure by neighboring Egypt. Abbas, meanwhile, suffered a political setback when the latest nine-month round of peace negotiations with Israel ran aground last month. On April 23 the two sides agreed to revive a previous reconciliation deal that was never implemented. Under that deal, Abbas is to form an interim unity government of technocrats by the end of May. The main task of the government is to prepare for general elections by 2015.

At the same time, Abbas needs to reassure Western donor countries, which consider Hamas a terror organization, that the Islamic militants will not play a role in his new administration. Abbas has said any unity government would recognize Israel, renounce violence and uphold previous interim deals — positions Hamas rejects. Gaza Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh said Wednesday that Hamas is willing to do its part to end the Palestinian split, but that the movement would not "abandon its fixed political positions." □

WHO says MERS virus is not an emergency yet

MARIA CHENG
AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — The spread of a puzzling respiratory virus in the Middle East and beyond doesn't yet constitute a global health emergency despite a recent spike in cases, the World Health Organization said Wednesday.

The decision was made after a meeting of WHO's expert group on the Middle East respiratory syndrome, or MERS. Since 2012, MERS has sickened more than 500 people and killed 145, mostly in the Middle East. The vast majority of cases have been in Saudi Arabia, although the disease has spread within the region and to Asia, North Africa, Europe and the United States.

MERS often starts with flu-like symptoms but can lead to pneumonia, breathing problems and in severe cases, kidney failure and death.

"Calling a global emergency in a world which has a lot of urgent issues going on is a major act," Dr. Keiji Fukuda, an assistant director-general of WHO, told reporters Wednesday. "You have to have really solid information to say this is a global emergency."

Fukuda said there wasn't yet proof of the virus' sustained transmission among people.

Last week WHO did declare the world's widening polio outbreaks to be an international health emergency.

Some scientists said while MERS technically meets the criteria for a global health emergency, declaring it as such could confuse the public.

"People might think (WHO) is crying wolf because MERS is still primarily a problem in the Middle East," said Michael Osterholm, an infectious diseases expert at the University of Minnesota who has worked in the Middle East. "But if one of those infected people gets on a plane and lands in London, Toronto, New York or Hong Kong and transmits to another 30 people, everyone will have a different view." On Wednesday, the Netherlands' National Institute for Public Health and the Environment announced its first case of MERS, a man who became infected during a visit to Saudi Arabia. He is now in isolation at a hospital in The Hague. Saudi Arabia's health ministry also reported five more MERS deaths on Wednesday. In the past 24 hours, the kingdom has identified 16 new cases in Riyadh, Jiddah and Medina.

Some experts say the spread of MERS is worryingly similar to the 2003 global outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome or SARS, which infected about 8,000 people in 2003, killing nearly 800. MERS is genetically related to SARS. Scientists are unsure exactly how people are catching MERS but suspect the disease is linked to camels. WHO recommends that people avoid contact with the animals, skip drinking camel milk or using camel urine in traditional medicines and only eat camel meat that has been well cooked. □

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Vietnam: Factories burned in anti-China protests

CHRIS BRUMMITT
Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Mobs burned and looted scores of foreign-owned factories in Vietnam following a large protest by workers against China's recent placement of an oil rig in disputed Southeast Asian waters, officials said Wednesday.

The unrest at industrial parks near Ho Chi Minh City is the most serious outbreak of public disorder in the tightly controlled country in years. It points to the dangers for the government as it tries to manage public anger at China while also itself protesting the Chinese actions in an area of the South China Sea claimed by Vietnam. Vietnam has sent ships to confront the rig which are engaged in a tense stand-off with Chinese vessels protecting it.

The rioting Tuesday into Wednesday in Binh Duong province followed protests by up to 20,000 workers at the industrial parks. Smaller groups of men attacked factories they believed were Chinese-run, but many were Taiwanese or South Korean, the provincial government said in a statement.

On Wednesday morning, groups of men on motorbikes remained on the streets and factories in the area were closed, said a park manager who declined to give his name because of the sensitivity of the situation. Riot police were stationed around the area but men were still seen carrying looted goods, said a security guard, who also declined to be identified. Firefighters battled to extinguish a fire at Tan Than Industries, a Taiwanese

bicycle factory, where walls were toppled in the riots. Smoke poured out of blackened windows at other factories, as people waved Vietnamese flags while riding motorcycles through the streets.

Police said 440 people had been detained over the violence. Tran Van Nam, vice chairman of the Binh Duong government, said Chinese, Taiwanese and South Korean factories that hadn't already shut down had been asked to do so temporarily for the sake of public order. He said the "situation was now under control."

Taiwanese-owned athletic shoe manufacturer Yue Yuen, which makes shoes for Nike, Adidas and Reebok, said it had closed its three complexes close to Ho Chi Minh City as a precautionary measure. "We believe that this should be solved very soon, that somehow ultimately it will be up to the government authorities to guide the overall sentiment," company spokesman Jerry Shum said.

The Singapore government, which operates two industrial parks hit by rioters, called on Vietnam "to act immediately to restore law and order ... before the security situation worsens and investor confidence is undermined."

The security guard said looters stormed his factory at 1 a.m. and took computers and anything valuable. "The whole industrial zone

looks like it was just smashed by a typhoon," the guard said. Another executive said many foreign-owned factories were putting banners on the gates of the factories saying, "We love Vietnam" and "Hoang Sa, Truong Sa - Vietnam," using the Vietnamese names for the Paracel and Spratly islands claimed by both Vietnam and China.

The government said

the protests were initially peaceful but were hijacked by "extremists" who incited people to break into the factories. It said at least 15 factories were set alight and hundreds more vandalized or looted. China's Foreign Ministry and its embassy in Hanoi issued warnings to Chinese citizens and urged Vietnam's government to protect them. □



A protester waves a Vietnamese flag while standing amongst motorcyclists in Quan Doan 4, Binh Duong province, near Song Than 2 Industrial Park in Vietnam, Wednesday, May 14, 2014.

(AP Photo/Jeff Nesmith)

Guatemala's congress votes to deny genocide

SONIA PEREZ
Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — Guatemala's Congress approved a non-binding resolution that denies there was any attempt to commit genocide during the bloody 36-year civil war, while calling for "national reconciliation" in the Central American country.

"It is legally impossible ... that genocide could have occurred in our country's territory during the armed conflict," said the resolution, which passed late Tuesday with support from

87 of the 158 legislators. The resolution was proposed by Luis Fernando Perez, a legislator for the party founded by former dictator Efraim Rios Montt. Rios Montt was convicted of genocide for crimes during his 1982-83 rule, but a court later annulled the 80-year sentence for the massacre of thousands of Mayans and ordered his trial re-started.

The vote apparently will have no effect on the trial, which is scheduled to begin again in January.

Groups representing Gua-

temala's Indians, the principal victims among the estimated 250,000 people killed during the 1960-96 civil war between a U.S.-supported government and leftist movements, have said the annulment of the Rios Montt verdict was a denial of justice.

Opposition congressman Leonel Lira criticized the resolution, saying such efforts "create more divisions in Guatemalan society."

"This shows that they aren't really looking for reconciliation, but rather there's an ideological point they're

trying to make," Lira said. Relatives and representatives of the army's victims during the civil war called lawmakers' decision racist and offensive.

Diego Rivera, leader of the Movement of Victims in Northern Quiche, said the decision affects the victims that are still fighting for justice. "It can't be denied that there was genocide, our proof is the more than 1,771 human remains," Rivera said. "No one can hide there were several massacres. That's a racist attitude." □

Manila says China reclaiming land in disputed sea

JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— The Philippines has protested China's reclamation of land in a disputed reef in the South China Sea that can be used to build an airstrip or an offshore military base in the increasingly volatile region, the country's top diplomat and other officials said Wednesday.

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario told The Associated Press that the Philippines lodged the protest against China last month after surveillance aircraft confirmed and took pictures of the reclamation and dredging being done by Chinese vessels at the Johnson Reef in the Spratly Islands, which Manila says violates a regional nonaggression pact.

Del Rosario said it was not clear what China would build on the reef, which Manila claims as part of its western province of Palawan, but that one possibility was an airstrip. "We're not exactly sure what are their intentions there," Del Rosario said.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said the reef was part of China's territory. "It falls within China's sovereignty rights to engage in construction on the relevant reef," she said at a news conference. "I wonder what special motives there are behind such concerns by the Philippines." The discovery of the reclamation, and the possibility of China building an airstrip in the reef, called Chigua by China and Mabini by

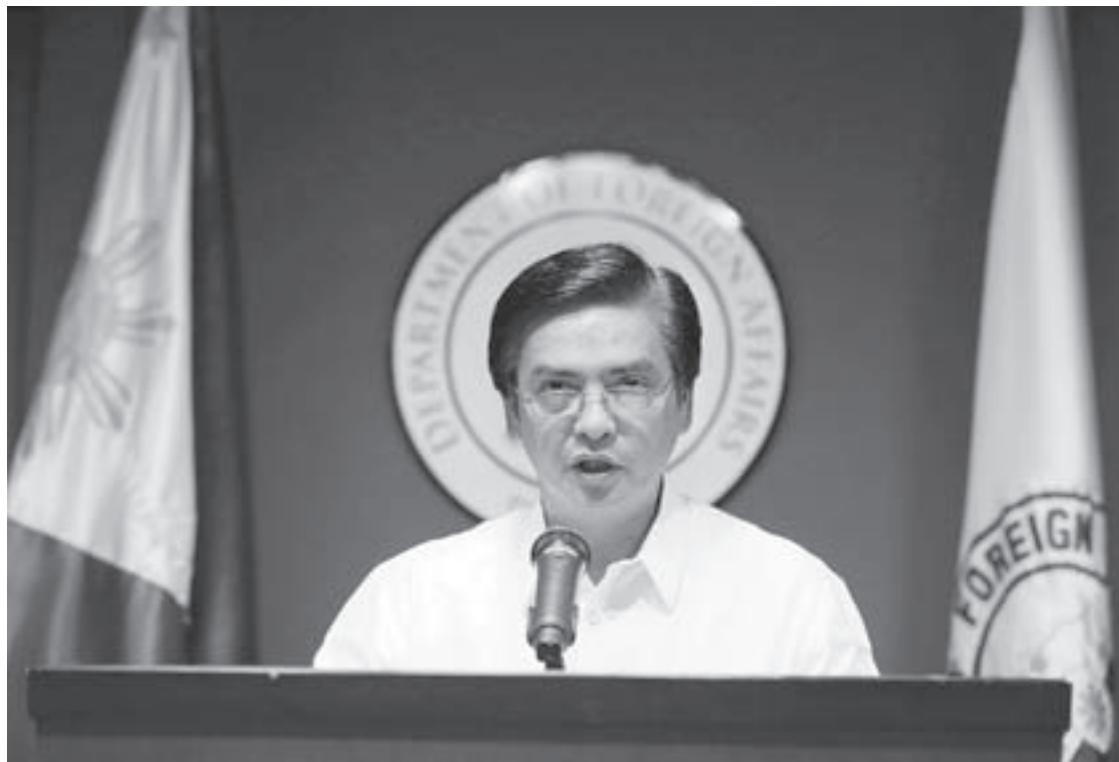
the Philippines, would likely raise alarm among rival claimant countries because it would bolster Beijing's naval and air force mobility in a South China Sea region far from the Chinese mainland.

Johnson Reef, located in a vast, bean-shaped submerged coral outcrop, is also claimed by Vietnam,

in March also spotted the continuing reclamation on the submerged Johnson Reef by at least one Chinese dredging ship backed by smaller vessels, the official said. The Philippine government estimates that the reclamation has turned the submerged reef and a sand bar into a 30-hectare (74-acre) land mass that

busiest sea lanes. Vietnam and China have separately been engaged in a dangerous standoff off the Paracel Island after Beijing deployed a mobile oil rig backed by dozens of security vessels.

Del Rosario said the Philippines raised the reclamation issue, along with the deployment of Chinese



Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs Spokesman Charles Jose delivers a statement about the Philippine protest against China's reclamation of land in a disputed reef in the South China Sea as he faces the media at the Philippine Foreign Affairs headquarters in suburban Pasay, south of Manila, Philippines on Wednesday, May 14, 2014.

(AP Photo/Aaron Favila)

which maintains several nearby military installations. Chinese and Vietnamese forces fought a deadly naval battle in the contested region in 1988.

The Philippine senior government official said China's reclamation was first detected by air force planes six months ago. Philippine aircraft searching for a missing Malaysian jetliner

transformed the underwater outcrop into an islet, a senior diplomat told the AP on condition of anonymity because of a lack of authority to discuss the issue.

It's the latest of several territorial spats between the Asian neighbors that have ratcheted tensions in the potentially oil- and gas-rich region, which also straddles one of the world's

coast guard ships at the Second Thomas Shoal and "harassments of our fishermen," during a summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations last weekend in Myanmar. Four members of the 10-nation bloc — Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam — are locked in territorial disputes in the Spratlys with China and Taiwan.

Peru lawyer: jailed Van der Sloot to be a father

FRANKLIN BRICENO

Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP)

— Joran van der Sloot's lawyer says the convicted murder is soon to be both father and husband.

Maximo Altez told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the 26-year-old Dutchman and his Peruvian fiancée have nearly completed legal arrangements to wed. The future Mrs. van der Sloot is five

months pregnant with a boy, he said.

Altez has said van der Sloot's met 22-year-old Leydi Figueroa Uceda while she was selling goods inside Lima's Piedras Gordas prison, where the two are to be married on an as-yet undetermined date.

Van der Sloot remains the chief suspect in the unsolved 2005 disappearance in his native Aruba of U.S. teen Natalee Hollo-

way.

He is serving a 28-year sentence for killing a 21-year-old female Peruvian student he met in a Lima casino.

Altez said that Van der Sloot keeps busy teaching English to fellow inmates and is studying international business via a correspondence course offered by a Peruvian university.

Once his sentence ends, he is to be extradited to

the United States to face trial on charges he extorted and defrauded Holloway's mother Beth Twitty shortly before traveling to Peru in 2010.

He allegedly took \$25,000 from the mother, promising to lead her to Holloway's body.

Five years to the day after Holloway disappeared, van der Sloot bludgeoned to death Stephany Flores in a Lima hotel room. □

Samsung Co. apologizes to chip workers

YOUKYUNG LEE

AP Technology Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— Samsung Electronics Co. apologized and promised compensation to chip factory workers who suffered cancers linked to chemical exposure, a rare win for families and activists seven years after the death of a 23-year-old employee from leukemia galvanized a movement to hold the company to account.

Samsung said the apology does not mean it concedes a link between the chemicals used in its chip factories and cancer and other diseases.

Still, the company's statement Wednesday that it should have sought a solution sooner is an abrupt shift in Samsung's stance and a form of vindication for workers and their families.

Samsung vice chairman Kwon Oh-hyun said the company, the world's largest maker of smartphones and memory chips, will compensate workers and their families.

"We feel regret that a solution for this delicate matter has not been found in a timely manner, and we would like to use this opportunity to express our sincerest apology to the affected people," Kwon, who oversees Samsung's semiconductor and display panel businesses, said in an emailed statement. Local news channels showed Kwon reading the statement before reporters.

The Samsung statement comes a month after opposition party lawmaker Sim Sang-jeung urged the government and Samsung to come up with measures to help victims and prevent workplace diseases. The resolution proposed by Sim in April said 114 of 243 workers sickened since the 1990s were former Samsung semiconductor employees.

For the past few years, Samsung has resisted calls to apologize. □



Tripl3 attends Vapor World Expo 2014 in Chicago



keep up with the vapor market expansion. Vapor World Expo 2014 set the stage for Innovation, Product Safety, Harm Reduction, Education and Market Profitability for those individuals involved in the manufacture, distribution and sale of these products. The event was attended by the Aruba Distributor as well, who will come back to Aruba with lots of updates on the use and available accessories in order to "vape".



ORANJESTAD/CHICAGO, IL - Tripl3 attended the Vapor World Expo the first for this industry in the USA. A new business-to-business trade show was held on May 7 & 8, 2014 at the "Donald E. Stephens Convention Center", located just minutes from O'Hare International Airport, Chicago. The focus of Vapor World Expo is to provide an event to support the emerging vapor market. Vapor World Expo brought together a mix of Manufacturers, Distributors,

Wholesalers and Retailers to learn Innovation, Product Safety, Harm Reduction, Education and Market Profitability. Vapor World Expo focused on the emerging vapor market during the two-day event. More than 200 suppliers of vapor products and accessories exhibited their products and e-liquids. Attendance included retail stores, wholesalers, distributors, convenience stores, smoke shops and many others who want to



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Loyal Aruba Visitors honored by Aruba tourism Authority!



PALM BEACH - George and Donna Lozy were recently honored as Distinguished Visitors to Aruba at the Marriott Ocean Club. The ceremony was conducted by Jonathan Boekhoudt with Aruba Tourism Authority and Juan Pablo from the front desk department. They have been calling Aruba their home away

from home for over 10 years and love the island especially for its people. Another group of loyal Aruba visitors were honored recently at the Divi Phoenix.

Jonathan Boekhoudt with Aruba Tourism Authority had the great honor in presenting James and Barbara Sweazey, together with

Gary Jemmott and Linda Hanifan with their Distinguished Visitor Certificates, to commemorate over 10 consecutive visits to the island.

The ceremony was held in the presence of General Manager Mr. Griffith, Rooms Division Manager Mr. Vargas and Guest Relations Avril. □



ATA honors Loyal Visitors



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill.

The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-or-more consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Gilbert and Mrs. Karen Madrigale of Bridgewater, Mas-

sachusetts, and Mr. Robert and Mrs. Dianne Hoyt of Lakewood Ranch, Florida. The honorees are loyal members of the La Cabana Resort and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, beaches, restaurants, and being on Aruba is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Sharine Charles representing the La Cabana Resort. □

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The Caribbean Festival is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism, Transportation, Primary Sector and Culture. Operated by the Caribbean Foundation.



Diamonds International's Honors Mom with a Gift



ORANJESTAD - In honor of Mother's Day, Diamonds International held a raffle from the exclusive brand John Hardy for all the moms on island.

The lucky winner was Mrs. Judith Danker who won a beautiful pair of earrings from the John Hardy Bamboo Collection.

Diamonds International extends a thank you to everyone who participated and please be pending for the Diamonds International Father's Day raffle!

Diamonds International is now one of the largest jewelry retailers in the world. They have more locations in the Caribbean than any other fine jeweler, and a network that stretches from the company's New York City headquarters into Mexico, across the Caribbean and as far as Alaska. Located in downtown Oranjestad, at Port of Call open 9-6pm Monday through Saturday. □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009



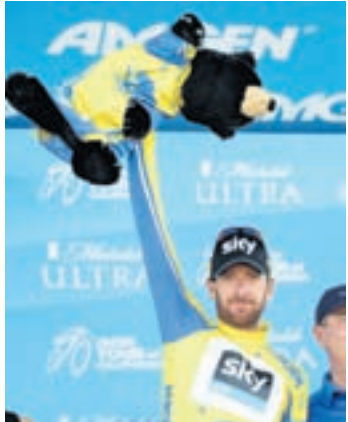
Catch your own dinner

A charter includes: captain, mate all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included.

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Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



Britain's Bradley Wiggins celebrates on the podium after Stage 3 of the Tour of California cycling race on Tuesday, May 13, 2014, at Mount Diablo State Park in Clayton, Calif. Wiggins retained the overall lead in the race.

Associated Press

Rohan Dennis wins Stage 3 at Tour of California

DANVILLE, California (AP)

— Australian rider Rohan Dennis surged within the final 300 yards (meters) to claim the hot and mountainous third stage of the Tour of California on Tuesday to reduce Bradley Wiggins' race lead. Dennis (Garmin-Sharp), who began the stage in second place overall with a 44-second deficit to Wiggins, completed the 108.5-mile (175-kilometer) road race to Mt. Diablo in 4 hours, 56 minutes and 2 seconds.

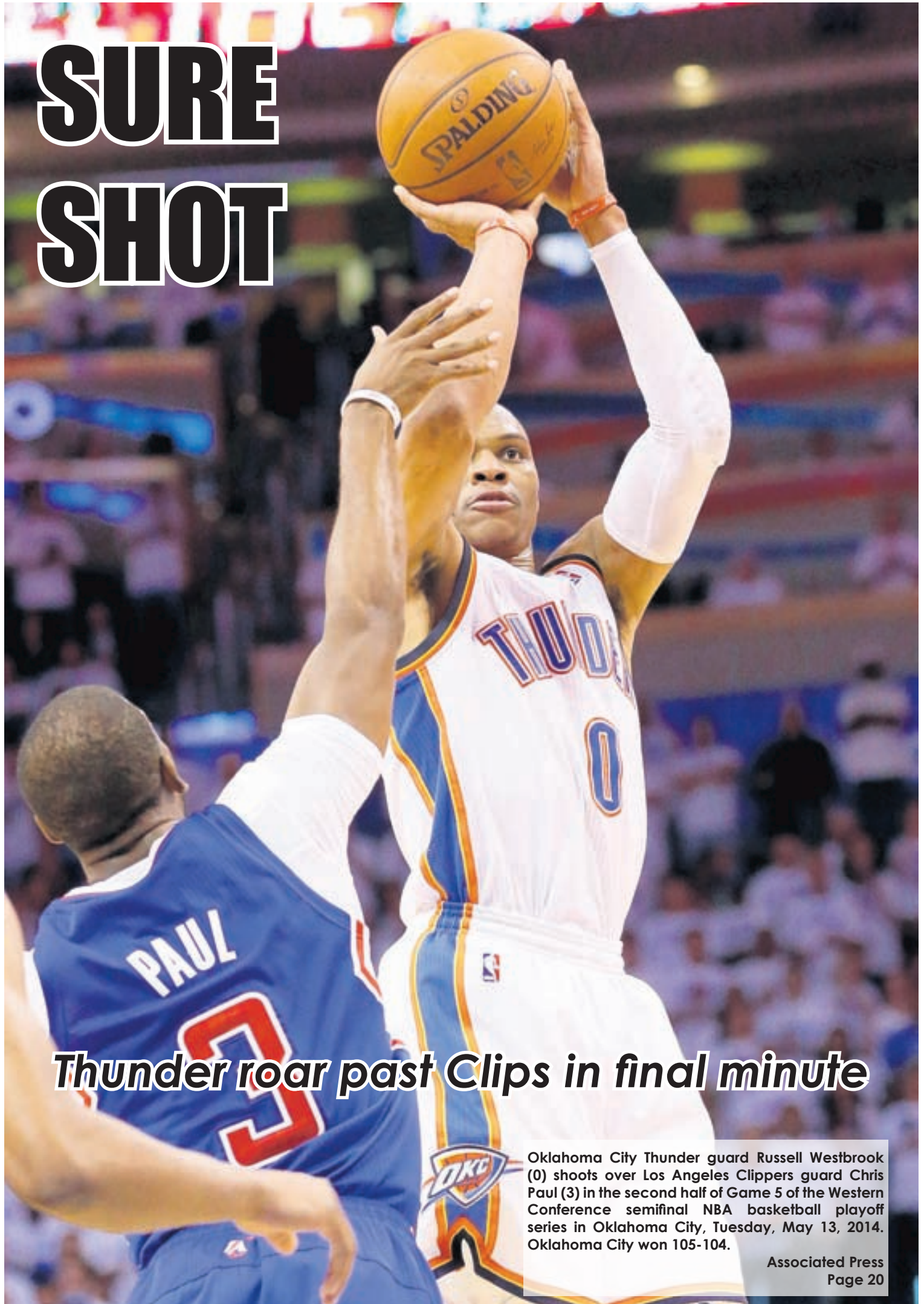
Wiggins (Sky) of Britain, who assumed the race lead with his dominating Stage 2 time trial win in Folsom, finished ninth in the stage, trailing the leader by 20 seconds.

Wiggins, the 2012 Tour de France winner who's competing in the event for the first time since 2008, leads Dennis by 24 seconds with five stages left.

"This is the first time I have ridden in this type of heat in almost two years," said Wiggins, who faltered in the waning meters.

Continued on Page 19

SURE SHOT



Thunder roar past Clips in final minute

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) shoots over Los Angeles Clippers guard Chris Paul (3) in the second half of Game 5 of the Western Conference semifinal NBA basketball playoff series in Oklahoma City, Tuesday, May 13, 2014. Oklahoma City won 105-104.

Associated Press
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AL Capsules

Cabrera HR in 9th rallies Tigers past O's

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Miguel Cabrera hit a three-run homer off Tommy Hunter with two outs in the ninth inning and the Detroit Tigers, down to their last strike, rallied past the Baltimore Orioles 4-1 Tuesday night.

After being held scoreless on three hits over the first eight innings, the Tigers used a reversed call to win. Detroit was 0-12 when trailing going into the ninth before mounting the improbable comeback.

Hunter held a 1-0 lead before giving up a leadoff single to Alex Avila. Pinch-runner Rajai Davis was called out trying to steal, but Detroit manager Brad Ausmus challenged the call and it was overturned on replay.

Hunter (1-1) got two straight outs before working the count on Torii Hunter to 1-2. The at-bat ended in a walk, and Cabrera hit an 0-1 curveball over the center-field wall for his sixth home run.

Adam Jones hit a first-inning homer for the Orioles, who have dropped three in a row following a five-game winning streak.

TWINS 8, RED SOX 6

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Chris Parmelee hit a game-ending homer in the ninth inning and Minnesota overcame David Ortiz's big night to beat Boston.

Ortiz went 4 for 5 with two homers and four RBIs, but it wasn't enough.

Kurt Suzuki singled with two outs off reliever Andrew



Detroit Tigers' Miguel Cabrera swings on a three-run home run against the Baltimore Orioles in the ninth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, May 13, 2014, in Baltimore. The Tigers won 4-1.

Associated Press

Miller (1-1) before Parmelee lined an 0-1 pitch into the right-field seats for his first two RBIs of the season.

Eduardo Nunez homered and Brian Dozier had two RBIs in a five-run second for the Twins.

Ortiz hit solo homers in the first and fourth and is tied with Jim Rice on the Red Sox list with 382. It was the 42nd multihomer game for Big Papi, who began his career with the Twins.

Ortiz added an RBI single in the sixth and another one in the seventh that made it 6-5.

Glen Perkins (1-0) pitched the ninth, striking out Ortiz

and Mike Napoli to strand Shane Victorino at first base.

RAYS 2, MARINERS 1

SEATTLE (AP) — David Price struck out 12 in his second complete game this season and Tampa Bay rallied in the ninth inning against Seattle closer Fernando Rodney. Mariners starter Hisashi Iwakuma shut out the Rays on four hits for eight innings before giving way to Rodney. David DeJesus led off the ninth with a tying homer, and Rodney (1-2) gave up a go-ahead RBI single to Matt Joyce five batters later.

Price (4-3) gave up six hits

and kept the Mariners off balance most of the night. Eight of his strikeouts came on called third strikes.

Robinson Cano had a double, single and an RBI for Seattle.

BLUE JAYS 5, INDIANS 4

TORONTO (AP) — R.A. Dickey won for the third time in four starts and Juan Francisco homered in Toronto's victory over Cleveland.

Blue Jays left fielder Melky Cabrera threw out Carlos Santana at the plate to end the eighth inning, preserving a one-run lead.

Adam Lind hit a two-run double for Toronto and scored on Francisco's dou-

ble.

Dickey (4-3) allowed two earned runs and four hits in six-plus innings. Casey Jansen, activated from the disabled list Sunday, finished for his first save.

Justin Masterson (2-2) matched a season high by allowing five runs and six hits in 5 1-3 innings.

ASTROS 8, RANGERS 0

HOUSTON (AP) — Dallas Keuchel pitched a seven-hitter for his first major league shutout, leading Houston past Texas.

Keuchel (4-2) struck out seven without a walk. He gave up just one extra-base hit, a double by Adrian Beltre in the first inning, and threw his second career complete game.

L.J. Hoes and Carlos Corporan each homered and drove in three runs.

The Astros were shut out 4-0 in the series opener, but jumped on Matt Harrison (1-1) for three runs in the second before he left with back stiffness.

ATHLETICS 9, WHITE SOX 0

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) —

Brandon Moss homered twice and Drew Pomeranz and three relievers combined on a four-hitter as Oakland shut out Chicago for its sixth consecutive win.

Josh Reddick also homered and Yoenis Cespedes added two hits and scored twice to anchor a shuffled Athletics lineup that had catcher John Jaso batting leadoff for the fourth time this season. Jaso had three hits and scored twice.



In this Feb. 21, 2014, file photo, The United States' team, from left, Shani Davis, Brian Hansen and Jonathan Kuck, follows team Russia during a warm-up prior to the start of the men's speedskating team pursuit quarterfinals at the Adler Arena Skating Center at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia

Associated Press

Coaching exodus at U.S. Speedskating continues

KEARNS, Utah (AP) — The national sprint coach for U.S. Speedskating has quit, joining an exodus of coaches in the wake of the Americans' poor performance at the Sochi Olympics.

Ryan Shimabukuro announced Tuesday on his Facebook page that he

was stepping down after 16 years. He said the decision "is the hardest I've ever had to make."

He says his future will be decided soon. He coached Shani Davis to gold and silver medals at the 2010 Olympics; Joey Cheek to gold at the 2006 Games;

and Heather Richardson to the overall World Cup championship in 2011.

He joins high-performance director Finn Halvorsen and national allround coach Kip Carpenter in leaving the organization. The Americans failed to win a speedskating medal at Sochi.

Headley's HR off Chapman lifts Padres over Reds 2-1

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — Chase Headley homered in the ninth inning off Aroldis Chapman, the first hit the hard-throwing lefty allowed since his return from being hit in the head by a line drive, and the San Diego Padres beat the Cincinnati Reds 2-1 on Tuesday night. The Padres got their season-high fourth straight win despite managing only three hits.

Seth Smith had the only two hits that Mike Leake allowed in the first eight innings.

Headley connected on a 99 mph fastball from Chapman (0-1), who was making his second appearance since undergoing surgery to repair damage after being struck in the left eye and nose during a spring training game.

Joaquin Benoit (1-0) allowed a walk in the eighth. Huston Street got the last three outs for his 12th save in as many chances. Street hasn't allowed a run in his last 10 innings.

DIAMONDBACKS 3, **NATIONALS** 1

PHOENIX (AP) — Bronson Arroyo scattered seven hits

in his 16th career complete game and also singled twice off Stephen Strasburg, leading the Arizona Diamondbacks over the Washington Nationals.

Paul Goldschmidt doubled twice and drove in two runs.

Arroyo (4-2), who pitched two complete games for Cincinnati last season, struck out seven and walked one. Over his last three starts, he has allowed one earned run in 23 1-3 innings.

He also became the second pitcher to get two hits off Strasburg. The other was Tim Hudson.

Strasburg (3-3) went seven innings, allowing three runs on eight hits, striking out six with no walks.

BREWERS 5, **PIRATES** 2

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Jonathan Lucroy hit a bases-loaded, two-run single, and the battered Milwaukee Brewers withstood the early exits of star outfielders Carlos Gomez and Ryan Braun to beat the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Gomez scored the second run on Lucroy's single in the third after getting hit by a changeup from Ger-

rit Cole (3-3). It was their first meeting since the teams brawled last month in Pittsburgh after Cole and Gomez exchanged words.

No confrontations Tuesday, though Gomez did leave the game with lower back tightness. Manager Ron Roenicke said Gomez woke up Monday with a tight back and tried to play through it.

Braun was activated from the disabled list earlier Tuesday. His departure after the sixth was planned as he gets acclimated in his return from an oblique injury. Marco Estrada (3-1) struck out eight in six innings. Francisco Rodriguez tossed a hitless ninth for his 16th save. **ANGELS** 4, **PHILLIES** 3

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Luis Jimenez hit a tiebreaking two-run double in the sixth inning, Matt Shoemaker tossed five effective innings and the Los Angeles Angels beat the Philadelphia Phillies.

Mike Trout went 1 for 5 with more than 4,000 fans from his hometown of Millville, New Jersey in the crowd. The two-time All-Star centerfielder grew up in the small town 45 minutes south



Cincinnati Reds relief pitcher Aroldis Chapman watches a solo home run by San Diego Padres' Chase Headley in the ninth inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, May 13, 2014, in Cincinnati. San Diego won 2-1.

Associated Press

of Philadelphia.

Shoemaker (1-1) allowed two runs and three hits to beat Cliff Lee (3-4). Shoemaker made his second career start and first this season.

The righty was called up to replace Hector Santiago, who was sent to the bullpen after going 0-6 with a 5.19 ERA in seven starts.

Lee allowed four unearned runs and six hits, striking out seven in seven innings. He

was hurt by three errors by third baseman Cody Asche.

Ernesto Frieri pitched the ninth for his fifth save in seven tries.

CARDINALS 3, **CUBS** 3, 12 INNING

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Pinch-hitter Greg Garcia was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded and one out in the 12th inning, sending the St. Louis Cardinals over the Chicago Cubs. □

Tour of California

Continued from Page 17

"It takes an adjustment. Actually, I am a bit knackered from it."

Tiago Machado (NetApp-Endura) of Portugal was second in Stage 3, trailing Dennis by 6 seconds.

American Lawson Craddock (Giant-Shimano) was third, another 2 seconds back, in the stage that ended with a 4½-mile (6.5-kilometer) climb with as much as a 17 percent grade. Temperatures reached into the mid-90s Fahrenheit (30s Celsius).

Machado is third overall, trailing by 1 minute and 5 seconds. Dennis, 23, came into prominence last year when he claimed the inaugural Tour of Alberta.

"Last year, at about three

kilometers to go, I didn't have anything left," Dennis said. "This year, getting past that was a bonus. I saw other people cracking around us and that gave me more confidence."

The heat took its toll, with the original field of 128 now at 114 with 11 riders eliminated by time and two others not finishing. One rider didn't start the stage. Mark Cavendish (Omega Pharma Quick-Step) of Britain, who assumed the race lead after winning Stage 1, finished last in the stage nearly 21 minutes behind. Wiggins went to the front of the lead group of 23 riders with about 2½ miles left.

"My mission was to be in a position to limit any losses and not explode," Wiggins said. "It is why I was riding tempo making sure no one got up the road. We



Rohan Dennis of Team Garmin Sharp crosses the finish line to take second place during the Amgen Tour of California second stage individual time trial in Folsom, Calif., on Monday, May 12, 2014.

Associated Press

did this climb a little over a week ago. I knew how it kicked up the last 300 meters. It was a tough climb. Every day is a tough day when you're in yellow."

Several riders tried short, but unsustained attacks before Dennis' final move. Eight riders escaped from the 127-rider field early in the stage. The group

crested Mt. Hamilton together after 21 miles (34 kilometers) and built more than a six-minute margin. The group was reduced to seven as its cushion was 4:20 with 30 miles (48 kilometers) left. With 20 miles (32 kilometers) left, the gap was 3:20.

With five miles left and the steepest part of the day rearing, only three riders remained in front and their lead was about one minute. The leaders were absorbed a few minutes later before the series of short solo bursts.

The eight-day race continues Wednesday with the flat 102.6-mile (165-kilometer) Monterey to Cambria road race. The estimated 720-mile (1160-kilometer) event continues through Sunday in Thousand Oaks. □

NBA Playoffs Roundup

Thunder edges Clippers, Wizards stay alive

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)

— Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook scored 38 points and made three free throws with 6.4 seconds remaining as the Thunder overcame a seven-point deficit in the final 50 seconds and beat the Los Angeles Clippers 105-104 on Tuesday to go up 3-2 in the Western Conference semifinals.

The dramatic finish in Oklahoma was a marked contrast to the day's other game in which Washington cruised to a 102-79 win over Indiana to stay alive in their series, cutting the deficit to 3-2.

Westbrook was fouled by Chris Paul while shooting a 3-pointer with the Thunder trailing by two. After his free throws, Paul drove to the hoop, but Reggie Jackson stole the ball from him, and time expired.

Kevin Durant scored 10 of his 27 points in the final 3:23 for the Thunder.

Blake Griffin had 24 points and 17 rebounds, Jamal Crawford scored 19 points and Paul had 17 points and 14 assists for the Clippers.

The Thunder can clinch the series Thursday in Los Angeles.



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) celebrates with teammate Russell Westbrook, right, at the end of Game 5 of the Western Conference semifinal NBA basketball playoff series against the Los Angeles Clippers in Oklahoma City, Tuesday, May 13, 2014. Oklahoma City won 105-104.

Associated Press

les.

The Clippers took a 101-88 lead in the fourth quarter on a 3-pointer by Crawford before Durant finally got involved. He hit a 3-pointer with 3:23 remaining on his first shot of the quarter, then drained two free throws to cut the Clippers' lead to 101-95.

A layup by Jackson cut Los Angeles' lead to four.

Griffin made the first of two free throws and the Clippers took the offensive rebound on the second, enabling Paul to hit a mid-range jumper which gave the Clippers a 104-97 edge with 49 seconds to play.

Durant made a 3-pointer,

and soon after a layup with 17 seconds left. Westbrook stole the ball, and in a scramble, the Thunder got possession with 11.3 seconds to play, setting up Westbrook's play.

The Thunder fell behind by 15 points in the first quarter but rallied in the second as foul trouble set in for the

Clippers.

Meanwhile, Washington's Marcin Gortat scored 31 points and had 16 rebounds, and John Wall added 27 points as the Wizards used a 39-rebound advantage to rout Indiana. Washington can level the series at home on Thursday in Game 6.

It was a stunning turnaround for a team that had lost the last three. But with Gortat matching a career high in points and posting a playoff career high in rebounds, Washington held a 62-23 rebounding edge. David West scored 17 points for Indiana.

Washington used a 15-6 run to take a 45-38 halftime lead, extended the margin to 24 after three and to as much as 30 in the fourth.

Washington denied the top-seeded Pacers a spot in the conference finals, for now, and improved to 4-2 on the road in this year's playoffs. They are just 1-3 at home.

Gortat and Wall combined for eight of the Wizards' first 10 points, and they were strong enough inside to fend off a brief Indiana scoring flurry to make it 25-19 at quarter time. □



New York Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist is swarmed by teammates Game 7 of a second-round NHL playoff hockey series against the Pittsburgh Penguins in Pittsburgh Tuesday, May 13, 2014. The Rangers won 2-1 and advanced to the conference finals.

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The New York Rangers and Chicago Blackhawks both advanced to the final four of the NHL playoffs with dramatic road victories on Tuesday.

New York completed a comeback from a 3-1 series deficit by beating

Pittsburgh 2-1 in Game 7 of their series, booking a place in the NHL Eastern Conference finals.

Defending Stanley Cup champion Chicago won 2-1 in overtime at Minnesota to win that series 4-2.

The Rangers will play the winner of Wednesday's

Rangers, Blackhawks into final 4 of NHL playoffs

Game 7 at Boston between the Bruins and Montreal, while Chicago will meet either Anaheim or Los Angeles, with the Ducks leading that series 3-2.

New York goaltender Henrik Lundqvist set an NHL record with his fifth-straight Game 7 victory, making 35 saves. Lundqvist stopped 102 of the final 105 shots he faced over the final three games as New York advanced to the conference finals for the second time in three years.

Brian Boyle and Brad Richards scored for New York, who rallied from a 3-1 series deficit for the first time in the franchise's 88-year history. Jussi Jokinen scored his team-high seventh goal

of the postseason for the Penguins, who were outscored 10-3 over the final three games.

This defeat was painful for the core of Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin and coach Dan Bylsma that seemed pointed toward a dynasty after winning the 2009 Stanley Cup.

Crosby, who led the league in scoring and is an MVP finalist, managed just one goal in 13 playoffs games. Chicago's Patrick Kane scored on a backhand at 9:40 of overtime to secure victory over Minnesota.

Kris Versteeg — on his birthday — scored the opening goal early and Corey Crawford came up with tough save after tough

save among his 34 stops for the Blackhawks.

Erik Haula scored and Ilya Bryzgalov stopped 25 shots for the Wild, who pushed a frenetic pace for much of the night but missed prime chances to score.

They paid for it in the extra period, when a simple dump-in by Brent Seabrook took an unusual bounce back toward the slot. The puck slid past Peter Regin but not Kane, who deked once and flipped it into the net. Since 2009, the Blackhawks are 14-0 in Games 5 and 6 of playoff series that were tied after Game 4. They're also 12-2 in games with a chance to win a series, including 6-1 on the road. □

Vonn, Woods lean on each other through rehab

DENVER (AP) — The power couple of sports is a rehab unit all its own. Lindsey Vonn and Tiger Woods, however, can take heart in knowing they have each other to lean on during the arduous process.

Vonn is working her way back from a second right knee operation that kept her from skiing at the Sochi Olympics. Woods is recovering from surgery to relieve pain from a pinched nerve in his back that caused him to miss the Masters.

"Rehab is not a fun thing to do - it's very monotonous and tedious and a lot of the same exercises over and over and over," Vonn said by phone from Florida. "But if you're going through rehab, it's nice to have a partner to do this with ... someone who relates to your situation and that you can talk to, rehab and train together." The one thing that's off limits? Treating this as a race or tournament.

"We have to keep our competitiveness at bay because it's not about that," Vonn said. "It's about doing it right and taking the time it needs to really heal properly." The four-time overall World Cup champion had her anterior cruciate ligament fixed for a

second time in January, sidelining her for Sochi. There also was quite a bit of cartilage damage in the knee, meaning this recovery will be even slower.

Still, things are "right on track, if not slightly ahead," Vonn said. She hopes to return to snow on Oct. 1, most likely in Europe. If all goes well, she could be racing two months later in Lake Louise, Alberta.

"I'm in a good place," she said.

When times get tough, though, she has Woods - and vice versa. In a recent posting on his website, Woods said: "It does help to rehab with Lindsey, but her programs are much further along than mine. That does help when you're not the only one suffering." Precisely.

"We remind ourselves not to push it too hard and to ask, 'How are you feeling?'" the 2010 Olympic downhill gold medalist said. "He knows I'm in pain and I know he's in pain. We understand each other. It's different when you're both experiencing it at the same time, even though they're two completely different injuries."

Vonn has been spending about seven hours a day in rehab as she splits her time between



In this Oct. 6, 2013 file photo, United States team player Tiger Woods, right, smiles with girlfriend, Lindsey Vonn, after the U.S. team won the Presidents Cup golf tournament at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio.

Associated Press

Vail, Colorado, and Florida. She recently was cleared to return to her road bike and promptly went for a 20-mile trek.

"I feel like I'm making really good progress now," said Vonn, who recently became an equity partner in Hyperice, a recovery technology company that also counts Adrian Peterson and Blake Griffin as shareholders.

Vonn tore two ligaments

in her right knee during a high-speed crash at the world championships in February 2013. She pushed hard to get back in time for Sochi, only to re-injure her surgically repaired ACL in a crash during training last November at Copper Mountain.

Looking back, Vonn doesn't think she returned too soon. Her knee was strong at the

time and she insists it was just "really, really, really bad luck that I crashed when I did."

Still, she has one regret: Maybe she should have backed off training.

"If I would've maybe waited and saved it for the races, maybe it would've been different," Vonn said. "I don't know what brakes are. ... It's hard for me to slow myself down." □

Trainer Sherman reunites with California Chrome

MIKE FARRELL
Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Trainer Art Sherman liked what he saw when reunited with California Chrome, his Kentucky Derby-winning colt.

Sherman returned to Southern California after the Derby, leaving the Preakness preparations to his son Alan. California Chrome flew into Baltimore on Monday. Sherman, the oldest Derby winning trainer at 77, hit

town a day later.

The elder Sherman supervised the colt's first gallop since the Derby on a foggy, overcast Wednesday, and came away satisfied. "He looked around quite a bit, like he usually does. He's a very inquisitive horse," Sherman said. "But then he took a hold of the bit and was pulling pretty good. That's his style, the way he gallops every day."

Sherman's main concern remains the two-week

span between the Derby and the Preakness on Saturday. "It takes a horse about 10 days to really bounce out of a race good," he said. "He's holding his weight. That's a big factor."

Sherman estimates California Chrome has added 35 pounds since the Derby. "He seems to be thriving in this type of training, so I'm sure not changing anything. Let's go for it," Sherman said.

California Chrome will



Trainer Art Sherman, left, rubs Kentucky Derby winner California Chrome after a workout at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore, Wednesday, May 14, 2014.

Associated Press

spend some time on Thursday getting familiar with the Pimlico starting gate and the paddock area. More galloping also remains on the to-do list

until race time.

And that suits Sherman just fine. "I wouldn't want to be in anybody else's shoes right now," he said. □

Federer beaten in Italian Open after boys' birth

ANDREW DAMPF
AP Sports Writer

ROME (AP) — Roger Federer's focus appeared to drift away from the Foro Italico. And that was understandable.

After all, the 17-time Grand Slam winner was playing for the first time since the birth of his second set of twins last week.

Federer let a lead to slip away and was beaten 1-6, 6-3, 7-6 (6) Wednesday in the second round of the Italian Open by 47th-ranked Jeremy Chardy of France.

When Federer's boys, Leo and Lenny, were born, the fourth-ranked Swiss player withdrew from last week's Madrid Open. He only de-

cided to come to Rome a few days ago.

"This one is totally OK if it doesn't hurt," Federer said. "I tried everything. I can't do more than that on the court."

Federer had a match point in the tiebreaker but Chardy saved it with an improbable cross-court forehand on the run when it looked like Federer was about to close the match out.

"That passing shot is a tough one for me to take, because he's not going to make that very often," Federer said. "But it happens and credit to him to fight his way back into the match and get it."

Later, top-ranked Rafael Nadal also faced stiff resis-



Switzerland's Roger Federer reacts after being defeated by France's Jeremy Chardy at the Italian open tennis tournament in Rome, Wednesday, May 14, 2014. **Associated Press**

tance from his French opponent before ultimately wearing down 30th-ranked Gilles Simon for a 7-6 (1), 6-7 (4), 6-2 win that lasted 3

hours, 18 minutes — opening his bid for an eighth Rome title.

Nadal hit 32 winners but just three with his backhand, which has become a point of concern recently.

Also, Wimbledon champion Andy Murray eliminated Marcel Granollers of Spain 6-2, 7-5.

Women's title-holder Serena Williams showed no problems — and no taping — from a left thigh injury that forced her to withdraw from Madrid. The top-ranked American beat 28th-ranked Andrea Petkovic 6-2, 6-2.

"I'm not 100 percent but I'm getting there," Williams said, adding that the conditions at the U.S. Open prepared her for the heavy wind gusts at the Foro Italico. "If I can play in New York, I can play anywhere."

Maria Sharapova, the 2011 and 2012 Rome champion, had to rally in the second set to get by Puerto Rican qualifier Monica Puig 6-3, 7-5.

After cruising through the first set, Federer began to commit unforced errors at an alarming rate and Chardy quickly took advantage.

"I wasn't able to stretch the lead when I had it," Federer said.

Federer committed 43 unforced errors — 20 in the second set alone — to Chardy's 28. Federer also struggled to dictate play with his first serve.

"But at the end, it was shot here or there that decided the match," Federer said.

Chardy hadn't beaten a top-10 player since defeating Juan Martin del Potro in the third round of last year's Australian Open.

Federer and wife Mirka also have twin girls, Myla Rose and Charlene Riva, who turn 5 in July. But even with all the family distractions, Federer didn't appear worried about his preparations for the French Open, which starts in 11 days.

"Everything is under control," Federer said, recalling that he reached the final of the Monte Carlos Masters last month. "I still feel good, my body is good, my mind is good and it's just unfortunate for one passing shot today I don't get another opportunity to play this week."

Also advancing was 11th-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who edged Kevin Anderson of South Africa 7-6 (14), 7-6 (5); and 12th-seeded Grigor Dimitrov, who eliminated Ivo Karlovic of Croatia 7-6 (3), 6-4; and 15th-seeded Tommy Haas, who defeated Igor Sijsling of the Netherlands, 7-6 (6), 6-1.

In women's play, third-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska beat Paula Ormaechea of Argentina 6-3, 6-2 and will next face 2010 French Open winner Francesca Schiavone, who rallied past Garbine Muguruza 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (5). Fourth-seeded Simona Halep rallied past American opponent Madison Keys 5-7, 6-0, 6-1 then withdrew from the tournament due to abdominal muscle injury.

Tenth-seeded Sara Errani swept aside Ekaterina Makarova 6-2, 6-3; and 13th-seeded Carla Suarez Navarro beat 1999 champion Venus Williams 6-4, 6-2.

Suarez Navarro then advanced to the quarterfinals upon Halep's withdrawal. Also, Varvara Lepchenko upset 16th-seeded Sloane Stephens 6-2, 6-2 in an all-American match; American qualifier Christina McHale rallied to beat Italian wild card Camila Giorgi 1-6, 6-3, 6-1; and Australian veteran Sam Stosur defeated Elena Vesnina of Russia 6-2, 6-3. □

Ulissi wins 5th Giro stage; Matthews keeps lead

VIGGIANO, Italy (AP) — A powerful final burst from Diego Ulissi helped the Italian cyclist win the fifth stage of the Giro d'Italia on Wednesday, while Australian rider Michael Matthews retained the overall leader's pink jersey.

Ulissi came from behind with 150 meters to go to cross the line solo, with his arms raised high in celebration at the end of the 203-kilometer (126-mile) leg from Taranto to Viggiano.

Australia's Cadel Evans was second, with Julian David Arredondo Moreno of Colombia third, both of them in a group which crossed a second behind Ulissi in the first uphill finish of this year's Giro. "Starting as the big favorite is always difficult. I showed I was ready," Ulissi said. "So I'm enjoying this moment. I wanted this win too against the big names who were up there in the finale of the stage."

Weather again played a part, with wet and windy conditions, although there was sunshine on the five-kilometer (three-mile) climb to the finish.

Matthews fought hard to stay near the front in the final kilometer and finished sixth. He will wear the pink jersey



Italy's Diego Ulissi pedals on his way to win the fifth stage of the Giro d'Italia, Tour of Italy cycling race, from Taranto to Viggiano, Italy, Wednesday May 14, 2014. **Associated Press**

for a fourth day, a record for an Australian cyclist.

The Orica-GreenEdge rider extended his lead to 14 seconds, with Dutchman Pieter Weening moving into second spot. Evans is third.

"I think the boys rode really well all day, they worked hard to keep me out of the wind and of problems," Matthews said. "I still haven't won a stage, which I really wanted, but I'm still in the pink jersey and we'll try again to fight to win tomorrow's stage."

There was an early break of 11 riders and, although their lead rose and fell at several points, the Orica-led peloton was happy to control the gap to an average of

four minutes.

There were several attempted breaks up front with 30km (18.6 miles) to go, but none stuck and the group was back together on the penultimate climb — the first ascent up to Viggiano — just before the slippery roads caused the first big crash of the day. There were several more crashes as the rain made the tight and technical descent even trickier.

Gianluca Brambilla attacked bravely on the descent, opening up a 30-second advantage, but Joaquin Rodriguez's Katusha team chased him down and he was caught on the final climb, setting up the scintillating finish. □

Google resumes Glass sales in the U.S.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Google is once again selling its Internet-connected eyewear to anyone in the U.S. as the company fine-tunes a device that has sparked intrigue and disdain for its potential to change the way people interact with technology.

The latest release of Google Glass comes a month after a one-day sale gave U.S. residents their first chance to buy the hottest accessory in geek fashion.

Google Inc. isn't setting a time limit for people to buy Glass this time, although the company is emphasizing that the product remains in its test, or "Explorer," phase.

As has been the case since Google began selling Glass to a select group in 2012, the device costs \$1,500. It's only available on Google's website for now.

Glass, which comes in five different colors, looks like a pair of spectacles except the Explorer edition doesn't contain any actual glass in the frame. Instead, the device has a thumbnail-sized screen attached above the right eye so a user can check email, see Twitter posts or get directions without having to grope for a phone.

Google is offering an option to add a titanium frame that can be fitted with prescription lenses or sunglasses from Maui Jim or Zeal Optics that can be clipped on. Google isn't charging extra for the titanium frame or sunglasses.

The resumed sale of Google Glass is the latest indication that the Mountain View, California, company is nearing a mass-market release of the device.

Google is planning to

release a more polished version of Glass by the end of this year that may sell for less than the price of the Explorer version. Analysts believe the cost will have to come down dramatically if Glass is to become anything more than a novelty worn by gadget lovers and wealthy consumers trying to impress their friends.

The parts and assembly of Glass cost only \$152.47, based on an analysis by the research firm IHS Technology. Most of Glass' costs stem from the extensive engineering and design that it took to invent the device, IHS said.

Google hasn't provided a timetable for a mass-market release of Glass. More details could be announced next month at the company's annual conference for developers in San Francisco.

Besides cost concerns, Glass also may have to overcome complaints about its potential to distract and intrude. Many of the misgivings about Glass center on its ability to take hands-free photos and video through voice-activated commands. The ability to record images so easily — and perhaps secretly — has raised privacy and piracy concerns and has prompted some casinos, theaters and bars to ban the use of Glass on their property. Safety concerns have also been raised about drivers wearing Glass, prompting lawmakers to draw up new rules forbidding use of the device in moving vehicles.

Google and other technology enthusiasts are hailing Glass as a breakthrough that will make it easier for people to access the Inter-



In this Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013, file photo, Google co-founder Sergey Brin wears Google Glass in San Francisco. Associated Press

net while on the go and cause fewer disruptions to social discourse because people won't be fumbling around with their smartphones as frequently. The device is also being touted as

a potentially valuable business tool that could help police officers, fire fighters, doctors and reporters do their jobs better.

About 10,000 sets of the Explorer edition were

initially sold to computer programmers, contest winners and other invitees. Google hasn't revealed how many more sets were sold in last month's one-day sale. □

Netflix's share of peak Internet traffic rises

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Netflix increased its share of fixed-line Internet traffic in North America in the first half of 2014, accounting for 34 percent of data flowing to consumers during peak times, up from 32 percent in the latter half of 2013.

That's according to a new report from Sandvine Inc., a Canadian networking services company. Sandvine also found that file-sharing — the main tool of content piracy — had fallen to 8.3 percent of all daily network traffic, compared to 31 percent in 2008, as legitimate options flourished.

Sandvine for the first time identified Internet users who are likely "cord cutters," or those likely to drop traditional pay TV. They were the top 15 percent heaviest users of streaming audio and video.

The group accounted for 54 percent of all Internet traffic, consuming on aver-



In this Friday, Jan. 17, 2014 file photo, a person displays Netflix on a tablet in North Andover, Mass. Associated Press

age 212 gigabytes of data per month. That would be roughly equivalent to watching 100 hours of video per month, Sandvine said. Meanwhile, the bottom 15 percent of streamers accounted for less than 1 percent of all traffic, averaging under 5 GB of data per month and streaming entertainment less than 1 hour a month.

The report comes amid public feuding between Netflix Inc. and Internet service providers about who should pay for network improvements needed to maintain quality video streams. Federal regulators are also proposing rules that could permit new fast lanes on the Internet for companies that pay for the privilege. □

Wall Street falls back from record level highs

STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Market Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks fell back from record levels on Wednesday as investors decided it was better to play it safe.

A day after the Standard & Poor's 500 index climbed above 1,900 for the first time, investors turned their backs on stocks that would benefit more than others in a reviving economy.

Consumer discretionary stocks, a group that includes luxury retailers and entertainment companies, dropped the most. Industrial and technology companies also fell, and riskier, small-company stocks resumed a sell-off after rebounding on Monday.

Instead, investors bought safe and steady stocks. Utility and telecom stocks, which investors favor when the markets get choppy, rose the most in the S&P 500. U.S. government bonds also rallied, pushing the yield on the 10-year Treasury note to its lowest in more than six months, another sign that investors were favoring safer assets.

"There's some internal self-correction and rotation going on beneath the surface," said Jim Russell, a regional investment director at US Bank. Russell said stocks were getting closer to being fairly valued.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 8.92 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1,888.53. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 101.47 points, or 0.6 percent, to 16,613. The Nasdaq composite fell 29.54 points, or 0.7 percent, to 4,100.63.

The Russell 2000 index, a gauge of small-company stocks, fell 18.02 points, or 1.6 percent, to 1,103.14. The index has slumped 9 percent since peaking March 4 as investors sold riskier stocks.

Bonds benefited from investor's appetite for less risky assets.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note, which falls when the price of the bond rises, dropped to the lowest it's been since October. The yield declined to 2.54 percent from 2.61 percent late Tuesday.

"People are rotating out of equities and into bonds,"

said Mark Pibb, U.S. fixed income strategists at Canaccord Genuity, a wealth manager, of Wednesday's move in the bond market. Bonds have surged this year because inflation remains low and investors have become concerned that the economy may not grow as quickly as previously anticipated.

Barclays' index of Treasury bonds maturing in 20 years or more has gained 10.6 percent, outperforming the 2.2 percent rise for the S&P 500 stock index.

In corporate news, Fossil, a maker of watches, jewelry and accessories, was the biggest decliner in the S&P

500.

Fossil fell \$11.45, or 10.3 percent, to \$100 after the company said late Tuesday that its first-quarter net income fell 8 percent, despite sales gains across all its business segments. The results beat market expectations, but the company gave a weak forecast. □



Traders John Santiago, left, and William McInerney, right, work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks fell back from record levels on Wednesday as investors decided it was better to play it safe.

(AP Photo)

The New York Times replaces Abramson as Executive Editor

RAVI SOMAIYA

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NEW YORK - Jill Abramson has been dismissed as executive editor of The New York Times and is being replaced by Dean Baquet, the managing editor, an abrupt change in leadership at one of the nation's largest daily newspapers. In announcing the sudden switch to a stunned newsroom Wednesday afternoon, Arthur Sulzberger Jr., the publisher of the paper and the chairman of The New York Times Co., attributed the move to "an issue with management in the newsroom."

Abramson, 60, a former investigative correspondent and Washington editor who was appointed to lead the newsroom in 2011, was the first woman to serve in the top job. She joined The Times in 1997.

"I've loved my run at The

Times," she said in a statement.

"I got to work with the best

journalists in the world doing so much stand-up journalism," she added, noting

her appointment of many senior female editors as one of her achievements.

Sulzberger informed senior editors of the change in a gathering in a conference room Wednesday afternoon and, shortly afterward, addressed hundreds of staff members gathered on the newsroom floor and the staircases surrounding it.

He began by praising Baquet but declined to elaborate on the question he said was "on all of your minds" - the reason for the sudden switch. Citing newsroom management, he said it was not about the journalism, the direction of the newsroom or the relationship between the newsroom and business sides of the paper.

"I chose to appoint a new leader for our newsroom because I believe that new leadership will improve some aspects of the management of the newsroom," he said. □



Dean Baquet speaks to staff members at The New York Times in New York on Wednesday, May 14, 2014. Jill Abramson, the executive editor of The New York Times, is unexpectedly leaving the position and will be replaced by Baquet, the managing editor of the newspaper, the company said Wednesday.

(Earl Wilson/The New York Times)

Sony sinks to \$1.3B quarterly loss

YURI KAGEYAMA
AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Sony Corp. sank to a 138 billion yen (\$1.3 billion) quarterly loss, hit by costs from selling its personal computer business, and is forecasting more red ink as it struggles to execute a long-promised turnaround.

The Tokyo-based maker of the PlayStation 4 game machine, Bravia TVs and Walkman digital player

Chief Executive Kazuo Hirai and some 40 other senior executives are returning their entire bonuses, reducing their annual pay by 40 to 50 percent. Sony executives have taken some pay cuts in recent years to take responsibility for the company's poor performance. Sony has lost much of the brand cachet that stemmed from once being at the cutting edge of consumer electronics. In

from a weak yen, which boosts the value of overseas earnings. The dollar has strengthened over the past year to about 102 yen from 80 yen.

Sony said it trimmed losses at its TV operations, which have been struggling for nearly a decade, a big problem for a company that had built its reputation on the fantastic image quality of its TVs.

Sony is splitting off its mon-



People are reflected on a wall of the Sony building at Ginza shopping district in Tokyo, Wednesday, May 14, 2014. Sony Corp. sank to a 138 billion yen (\$1.3 billion) quarterly loss, hit by costs from selling its personal computer business.

also reported Wednesday a loss of 128.4 billion yen (\$1.3 billion) for the fiscal year through March 2014, about three times its loss of 41.5 billion yen the previous year.

It forecast a 50 billion yen (\$490 million) loss for the year ending March 2015 as overall sales are expected to be flat without its Vaio PC business.

Earlier this month, Sony said it would report a bigger annual loss than forecast because of expenses that stemmed from selling Vaio, such as restructuring charges and dealing with excess inventory in components.

The PC-related losses are expected to continue this fiscal year, totaling 80 billion yen (\$784 million), on top of the 92 billion yen (\$900 million) for the fiscal ended March 2014.

Sony also suffered a drop in the value of its overseas disc manufacturing business and its battery business.

recent years it has fallen behind in digital recorders and flat-panel TVs while also facing competition from a host of new players that can make appliances at lower costs.

In gadgetry, it is American rival Apple Inc. and Samsung Electronics Co. of South Korea that have dazzled with their innovations, not Sony.

In February, Sony announced it would withdraw from the PC business, despite the popularity of the Vaio brand among some Sony fans, especially in Japan.

The deal to sell Vaio to a Japanese conglomerate was signed earlier this month and the transaction is set to be completed in July.

Sony's red ink is flowing despite an improvement in sales, which rose 14 percent to 7.7 trillion yen (\$76 billion) for the fiscal year.

It is also struggling despite the perk that Japanese exporters such as Sony get

(AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi)

ey-losing TV division to run it as a wholly-owned subsidiary.

In other divisions, Sony lost money in its mobile, device and video-game businesses for the fiscal year ended March.

But it was profitable in its movie business, where TV productions benefited from licensing agreements for game shows, including "Wheel of Fortune."

Sony's music unit also increased profitability, on the success of Daft Punk's "Random Access Memories," Beyonce's "Beyonce" and Miley Cyrus' "Bangerz."

Sony grew from modest beginnings in 1946 to a global powerhouse. It expanded into the entertainment business three decades ago, acquiring CBS Records in 1988 and Columbia Pictures in 1989. But it has never managed to take full advantage of having both electronics and entertainment businesses under its wing. □

Sears considering selling its Canadian operations

NEW YORK (AP) — Sears is considering selling its Canadian operations as the retailer looks for ways to prop up its sagging business.

The retailer, which operates its namesake stores and Kmart locations, said that it's looking at strategic options for its 51 percent interest in Sears Canada. The Hoffman Estates, Illinois-based company said this includes the possible sale of its stake or possibly the entire Sears Canada operation.

Sears Canada's board and management plan to cooperate with Sears Holdings as it explores strategic alternatives.

The news comes as Sears Holdings Corp.'s chairman, the billionaire hedge fund manager Eddie Lampert, has been under intense pressure to turn around its business. He took over as CEO in February 2013.

Sears has had trouble adapting as bigger, nimbler rivals such as Wal-Mart and Home Depot have attracted its customers over the years. Sears is trying to transform itself to into a member-focused business rather than a company that simply runs a store network. Loyal shoppers now receive incentives to buy. But its results have been hurt as it continues traditional promotions while investing in its membership program dubbed Shop Your Way.

Sears previously sold some store leases in Canada. It recently spun off clothing business Lands' End as a separate public company after not having much success with it.

The possible sale of its business north of the border also comes as several U.S. retailers, particularly Target Corp., are having difficulties cracking the Canadian market, about one tenth the size of the U.S. market. The two countries are neighbors and they are culturally similar. But Canadian stores are grappling with a web of costly regulations and a slower Canadian economy and increasing competition are making

the retail landscape look a lot like the U.S. economy. Sears expanded into Canada through a joint venture in the early 1950s, but it has seen heightened competition from rivals Home Depot and Wal-Mart that entered Canada in the 1990s. The momentum picked up during the Great Recession. Target, based in Minneapolis, expanded into the Canadian market last year with more than 100 stores, marking its first foray a market outside the U.S. But Target's merchandising mistakes and poor locations have resulted in a \$724 million loss on lower than-expected sales for the year ended Feb. 1.

The botched up expansion was one of the key factors behind last week's abrupt departure of Target's CEO Gregg Steinhafel who also faced intense scrutiny in the wake of its massive data breach.

In an interview with The Associated Press last week, John Mulligan, Target's chief financial officer, who is serving as Target's interim CEO until a permanent replacement is named, vowed that it would not scale back on its expansion plans in Canada. Target's longer-term plans call for reaching \$6 billion in revenue in that country. But Mulligan noted it was making several leadership changes to help fix the problems. Analysts say that Sears is a much different story. "(Sears) resembles the atrocity of the U.S. business," said Brian Sozzi, CEO and chief equities strategist at Belus Capital Advisors. "It's almost a shell outfit."

In 2012, Sears announced plans to restore profitability by cutting costs, reducing inventory, selling off some assets and spinning off others. Those moves helped the company reduce net debt by \$400 million and generated \$1.8 billion in cash from the asset sales.

Sears has spun off other businesses over the past three years, including its Hometown and Sears Outlet stores and its Orchard Supply Hardware Stores, to raise cash. □

Mutts



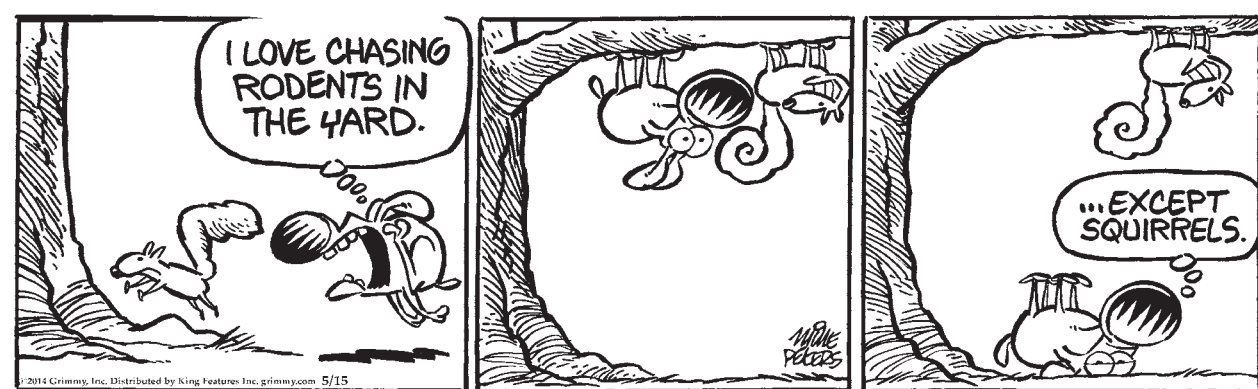
6 Chix



Blondie



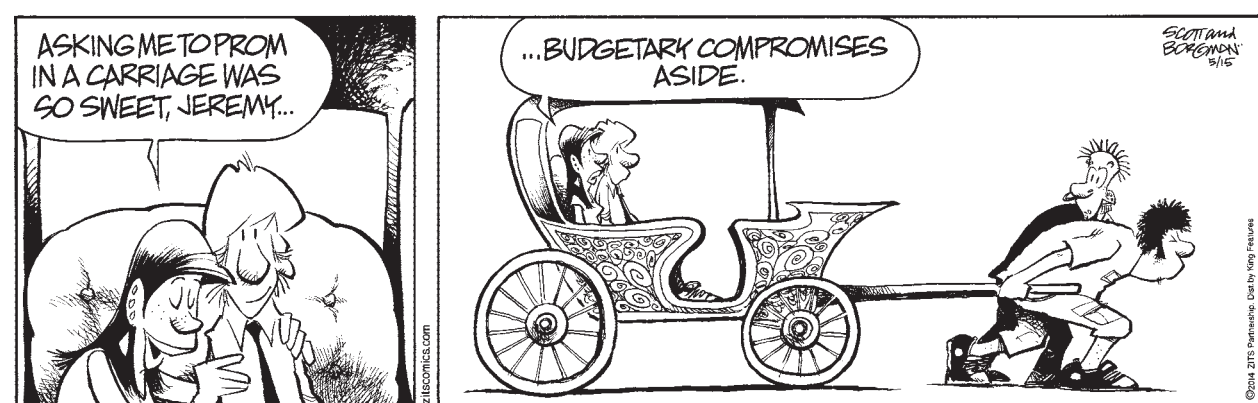
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	8		1	6			5	
4							7	9
				9				
7			3					
6		8				7		1
					4			5
				4				
9	1							8
	3			7	8		6	

Difficulty Level ★★★

5/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

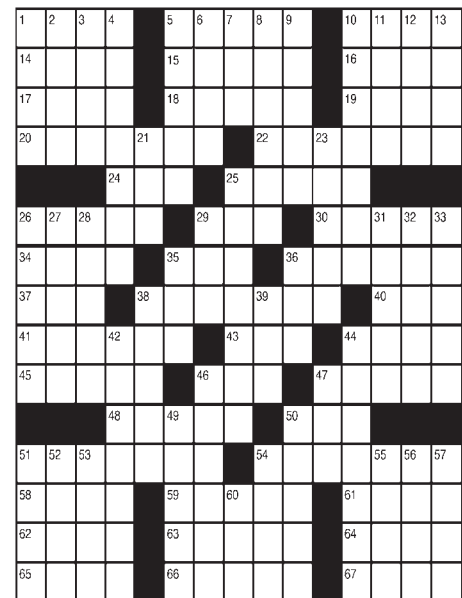
4	3	5	7	6	2	1	8	9
1	8	2	5	9	4	3	7	6
9	6	7	1	8	3	5	2	4
6	9	8	4	2	5	7	1	3
2	1	3	9	7	8	6	4	5
5	7	4	6	3	1	2	9	8
3	2	1	8	5	9	4	6	7
8	5	6	2	4	7	9	3	1
7	4	9	3	1	6	8	5	2

ACROSS

- Sticky strip
- Raise; lift
- Slender
- Mountain goat
- Large sea duck
- Days of __; yesteryear
- Applaud
- Linda Lavin's TV role
- __ and cons
- Actor Peter __
- Glowing
- Over the hill
- Battlefield cry
- Grumpy or Doc
- Bowler or fez
- Cheese-topped tortilla chip
- "Ticket to __"; Beatles song
- Egypt's boy king
- More hideous
- Didn't __ up; made no sense
- First month
- Small dollop
- Go out of business
- Gallop
- Place to buy salami and rye
- Rough woolen coat fabric
- Lower limb
- Most terrible
- Dinner course
- "My __ Sal"
- Early flower
- Mom and dad
- Lariat, for one
- Barking marine mammals
- Young horse
- Above
- Follow as a result of
- Take apart
- __ away; left
- Mates for does
- In case

DOWN

- Facial twitches
- Up to the task
- Ring out



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/15/14

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

4	Investigate new territory	OPTIC	ATOP	PUSS
5	Listened	NAOMI	BEAR	ABUT
6	Thomas Kinkadee's paintings	ERUPT	BAKE	TORE
7	Tyrant __ Amin	STREAKER	FORAGE	
8	Whispered confidence		DDAY	LIMITED
9	__ on; trample	STREET	TOXIC	
10	Normal	POE	LEERY	TIERS
11	Dance at a Bar Mitzvah	UTAH	SMEAR	AREA
12	Thin-headed golf club	DEPOT	BALES	GAL
13	Bird's home		LOVED	BEFORE
21	Leprechaun	SHUDDER	CEDE	
23	Shabby, dusty	TENDON	FILAMENT	
25	Ripened	ALSO	ICED	TABOO
26	Uncomfortable breeze	SLEW	COTE	ELBOW
27	Grieving wife	HORN	EWER	DESKS

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5/15/14

- One of the 12 Apostles
- Summer month: abbr.
- Pie or mousse
- Melancholy
- Regret
- Armed conflict
- Misplaces
- Argon & neon
- Forehead
- Zero, in tennis
- Unlock
- Sink stopper
- Nary a one
- Small boys
- Job opening
- As busy __ bee

Ukraine

Continued from page 9

Al-Qaida fighters have been retreating from areas they held in the face of the southern offensive, which has focused mostly on the provinces of Shabwa and Marib, east of the capital, Sanaa.

The Defense Ministry said dozens of suspected militants have been killed or captured over the past three weeks. Yemeni troops and allied tribal fighters have seized a string of al-Qaida-held areas along a 60-mile (100-kilometer) stretch of highway snaking through the rugged desert mountains of the south, starting from the Mahfad region.

In an apparent retaliatory attack Wednesday, a senior intelligence official in the southern city of Mukalla was gunned down in front of his house in a drive-by shooting, officials said.

In Sanaa, security forces and anti-terrorism forces stormed a house and arrested dozens of suspects amid beefed-up security measures in the capital.

Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula is blamed for a number of unsuccessful bomb plots aimed at Americans, including an attempt to bring down a U.S.-bound airliner with explosives hidden in the bomber's underwear and a second plot to send mail bombs hidden in the toner cartridges on planes headed to the U.S. It overran territory in Yemen's south in 2011. Yemen's army, supported by U.S. military experts and drone strikes, has pushed them back, but clashes and al-Qaida attacks in Yemen persist.

The U.S. Embassy in Sanaa shut down its premises last week as a precaution against possible retaliatory attacks by militants. On April 24, two officers at the U.S. Embassy getting haircuts at a Sanaa barbershop killed two suspected al-Qaida gunmen. The New York Times has reported that the Americans were a CIA officer and a lieutenant colonel with the elite Joint Special Operations Command. □

Classifieds



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201937

FOR SALE



Kunuku Abou 107

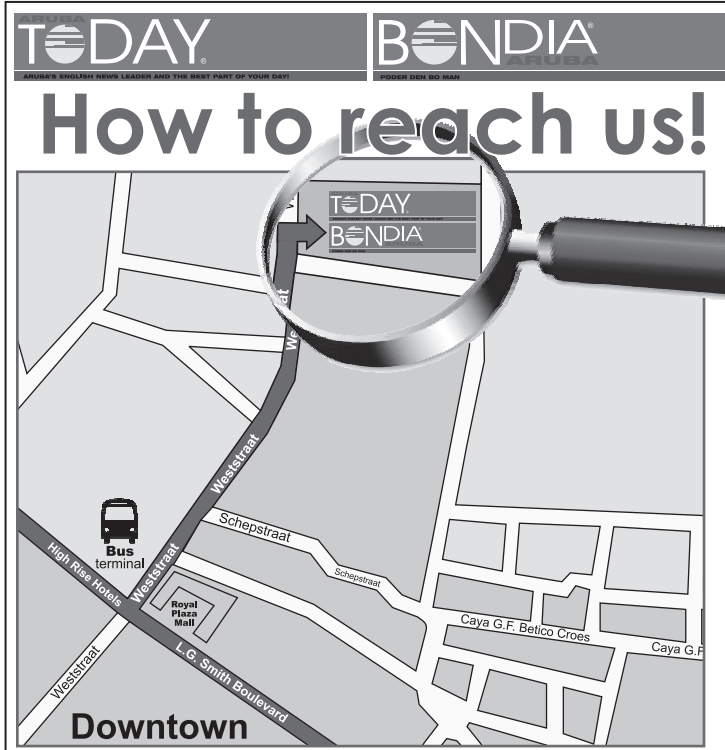
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May 15

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pa Prohimo

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Women in Difficulties

Foundation

Tel: 583-5400

Bloodbank Aruba

Tel: 587-0002

Explorer: Shipwreck off Haiti may be Santa Maria

**BEN FOX
TRENTON DANIEL
Associated Press**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— A shipwreck off northern Haiti may be the remains of Christopher Columbus' flagship vessel the Santa Maria, an explorer said Tuesday, though experts expressed caution about a discovery that was far from confirmed.

Explorer Barry Clifford said evidence that the wreck is the Santa Maria, which struck ground and foundered on Christmas Day in 1492, includes ballast stones that appear to have come from Spain or Portugal and what looks like a 15th century cannon that was at the site during an initial inspection but has since disappeared.

Clifford, known for discovering a pirate ship off Cape Cod in 1984, said another factor is the location of the wreckage, in about 15 feet of water near where the crew of the Santa Maria is thought to have built a coastal settlement for crew members of the ship who were left behind after the sinking.

"The circumstantial evidence is overwhelming," Clifford said in a phone interview from his home in Provincetown, Massachusetts. "The cannon is the smoking gun, so to speak." He said that he and his son, Brandon, first explored the site and took photos in 2003. They decided to

publicize their findings after a follow-up dive and examination of the photos led them to conclude they may have found the Santa Maria. The cannon that they saw in 2003 had vanished by the time they returned last week.

Clifford, whose exploration of the site is being backed by the History Channel, says he has asked the Haitian government to preserve the area around the wreck. "The next step is a careful, thorough and timely excavation," he said.

Salim Succar, a special adviser to Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe, said the government will do "all that is needed" to protect the site "while deciding on the best options to feature this discovery."

If the ship is the Santa Maria, it would be the oldest known European shipwreck in the so-called New World and a find of major archaeological significance. But scientists say it's far too early to make any such declaration especially since there is likely to be very little left of the vessel.

"The evidence, as you can imagine, after more than 500 years is not going to be very much because of time and the environment that the site is in," said Roger C. Smith, the State Underwater Archaeologist for Florida. "It's going to require some careful archaeology."



In this May 2003 photo, a diver measures a lombard cannon adjacent to a ballast pile, off the North coast of Haiti, at a site explorer Barry Clifford says could be the wreckage of Cristpher Columbus' flagship vessel the Santa Maria.
Associated Press

Smith, who has searched for wrecks of Columbus' ships in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Panama, said it's possible the ship found by Clifford is the Santa Maria, but he noted that there was at least one wreck in that area that was once mistakenly thought to be the ship but turned out to be a much later vessel.

Kevin Crisman, director of the Center for Maritime Archaeology and Conservation at Texas A&M Uni-

versity, said many Spanish ships sank off Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and it will be difficult to confirm that this is the Santa Maria. "Anything is possible in this world, but I would like to see all the evidence, and so far this is not too promising," Crisman said.

The ship sank slowly in 1492 and the crew had time to strip it and remove valuable items that would help document the identity of the vessel.

Much, if not all, of the ship's

timbers would have broken down or been consumed by a species of wood-consuming mollusk found in the tropical waters — if it hadn't been carted away by crew members who were left behind and never heard from again.

"If whoever finds the Santa Maria can confirm that it's the Santa Maria, that's kind of like the Holy Grail," Crisman said. "It would be very exciting but I remain skeptical because people make claims all the time." □

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'Now That's What I Call Music' reaches milestone



This photo provided by NOW That's What I Call Music! shows the cover art for the "NOW 50," standard edition.

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Like many music fans, Taylor Swift's relationship with the "Now That's What I Call Music" series stretches back more than a decade. She and her brother would listen to the series when they were children before Swift became a regular contributor with appearances on 10 albums in the run.

"I had 'Now 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,'" the 24-year-old music star said with a smile. "I think now we're at 'Now 1,002,042.'"

Close.

The series has reached No. 50, a serious milestone for a physical sales survivor that's managed to navigate changes in a digital world to remain relevant, profitable and consistent since its U.S. debut 16 years ago. Despite the availability of popular singles and the general erosion of physical album sales, installment No. 50 was expected to debut atop the Billboard 200 this week, marking the series' 18th No. 1. Only The Beatles have more with 19. Each installment used to be guaranteed platinum, but sales have dropped below 1 million per release during an industrywide decline. Yet it proportionately remains a factor on the charts and is available on streaming and digital platforms. Earning a spot on a volume's track list still can mean an artist has truly

penetrated America's pop cultural consciousness.

"It is confirmation of making a song that has become part of the social fabric and will likely remain that way for a while," said Aloe Blacc. His song "The Man" is on No. 50. "When popular songs are compiled in the 'Now' series, you get a snapshot of a moment in time, and to be part of that picture is an honor."

The series — based on a popular British run of the same name that has reached No. 87 — is likely the most successful in modern music history, selling more than 76 million copies in its numbered U.S. series alone, according to Nielsen SoundScan. It remains popular for reasons that include convenience, brand appeal, format preference and familiarity.

"You have the 50 albums, plus dozens of these 'Now'-branded compilations — 'Now That's What I Call Disney,' 'Now That's What I Call Dance Music' — it goes on and on and on, and all those things sell, too," said Keith Caulfield, Billboard's associate director of charts/retail. "Not in the way the numbered compilations do, but it's just all gravy. It's such a well-known brand, when a 'Now' album comes out, you already know what it is."

Nielsen figures show Vol. 5

was the series' most popular, selling nearly 4.8 million copies. The series remained above the platinum level into 2008, and sales for recent volumes hover around 500,000 — a very solid number in 2014. Vol. 50 was expected to be the 49th straight top 10 debut for the series — and all 50 reached the top 10. Over time, though, the reasons behind that success have changed. "Now" filled a gap when it debuted in 1998 that no longer exists. "People have to remember back in the day before iTunes, before YouTube, the only way you could actually get the song that you wanted, that you enjoyed, was to purchase it as a CD single in the store or to purchase an album that had the song on it,"

Caulfield said. "And a lot of the singles from the late '90s were not released as commercial singles."

These days, that's not a problem. So who's buying "Now" discs? And why?

Those are questions that series creators ask constantly. Some of the answers they get from buyers they survey are surprising, others predictable.

While physical album sales tend to skew older these days, "Now" runs against that conventional wisdom. Laura Rutherford, "Now" senior vice president of marketing and operations, says slightly more than half its listeners are 24 or younger. Older listeners 35 to 44 account for just 17 percent of sales.

Familiarity and the technological divide seem to

drive those buyers. Studies with "Now" buyers show fans keep coming back for simple reasons: First, they know the line and count on it for cherry-picking hits. As Jeff Moskowitz, the "Now" head of A&R, puts it: "A lot of these fans have grown up with us. They've grown up with our sound, they've grown up with what we represent and they're very comfortable with our brand."

There's also the simplicity of the much-dismissed CD. While today's digital marketplace offers convenience, it's not the kind of convenience everyone wants or can afford. And while much has been made about cars being built without disc players, most American cars still have them. □

Nicks gets BMI honor, talks Fleetwood Mac reunion



Stevie Nicks poses with the BMI Icon Award at the 62nd Annual BMI Pop Awards at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel on Tuesday, May 13, 2014, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

MIKE CIDONI LENNOX
AP Entertainment Writer
BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)

— Stevie Nicks thought former bandmate Christine McVie was joking when she told her that she wanted to go on tour with Fleetwood Mac last year. "I'm like, 'Well, you've convinced us over 16 years that you were never coming back. You finally, actually convinced us. So, are you kidding?'" Nicks said.

McVie was serious. And Fleetwood Mac is finally back to its most successful configuration, which also

includes Lindsey Buckingham, Mick Fleetwood and Christine's ex-husband John McVie, who was treated for cancer last year.

Their 33-city tour, "On With the Show," starts Sept. 30 in Minneapolis. McVie, 70, last toured with the band in 1998.

"And I said, 'Well, Chris, have you seen us in concert lately? Because you should see us, because it's very physical,'" Nicks said. "It's almost three hours, and you kind of have to be an athlete. So, get a trainer.' And she did! She

did, totally!"

Nicks, 65, made the comments Tuesday night when she was honored with an icon award from music-rights management group Broadcast Music Inc. Adam Levine, Sheryl Crow, Lady Antebellum and Shakira paid tribute to Nicks with performances at the annual BMI Pop Awards in Beverly Hills, California.

Nicks, who received the honor for writing well-known tunes for Fleetwood Mac and for her solo career, says the band is working on new music. She's still working solo, too: Her upcoming album will feature songs she has written and, in some cases, performed over the years, that fans asked to be properly recorded.

"We went onto YouTube and we found all the songs that, somehow, were taken from my house or picked up or loaned out or whatever ... and we went to Nashville and we recorded 17 songs," she said. "So they're like all starting from like 1969 maybe? I call them my 24-carat gold songs." □

CBS adding 5 new series in the fall

NEW YORK (AP) — Tea Leoni will portray the U.S. secretary of state in a new CBS drama this fall, the long-running comedy "Two and a Half Men" will enter its final season and television's top-rated network will introduce a new generation of crime procedurals.

CBS said Wednesday it has ordered eight new series for next season, five of them premiering in the fall, with a New Orleans-based spinoff of TV's most popular series, "NCIS," among them.

As it has been for several years, CBS will end the season as television's top network. Viewership was down this season, however, and CBS is doubling down on what its viewers find familiar: five of the six new dramas will be about fighting crime.

The exception is "Madam Secretary," where Leoni will star as a former college professor turned secretary of state. It will be paired on CBS' Sunday-night schedule with the network's most critically acclaimed drama, "The Good Wife." "Two and a Half Men,"

which began airing in 2003, will have its farewell season. The series has survived despite losing one and a half of the men — Charlie Sheen and youthful actor Angus T. Jones — in noisy and controversial fashion. Creator Chuck Lorre promises plenty of surprises for the final season, but top CBS entertainment executive Nina Tassler said she doesn't know whether bringing Sheen's character back from the dead will be one of them.

"NCIS: New Orleans," which will star Scott Bakula, gets the prized time slot of Tuesday following "NCIS." The already established spinoff, "NCIS: Los Angeles," will move to Monday nights.

For the first time in more than 25 years, CBS' Monday schedule will not include four comedies. The 9 p.m. Monday time slot, long the home to CBS' most high-profile comedies, will instead be filled by "Scorpion," a story about eccentric geniuses fighting crime. While a drama, "Scorpion" has its funny moments, Tassler said.

CBS will air NFL football games on Thursday nights through late October, meaning its regular Thursday evening of entertainment shows won't premiere until Oct. 30. The network will temporarily move "The Big Bang Theory" to Mondays until the Thursday football games stop.

CBS is canceling "The Crazy Ones" starring Robin Williams after one season. The two highest-profile new comedies of last season, starring Williams and Michael J. Fox on NBC, proved to be failures. CBS also ended "Bad Teacher," "Intelligence," "Hostages" and "Friends With Better Lives."

Somewhat surprisingly, CBS rejected "How I Met Your Dad," the planned spinoff to "How I Met Your Mother" that featured Meg Ryan as a narrator. Tassler said CBS had creative problems with the pilot and wanted producers to redo it, and they would not.

The network stressed its plans to stay open for business all year, bringing fresh programming on the air



This Oct. 24, 2011 file photo shows actress Tea Leoni attends the premiere of "Tower Heist" in New York. Associated Press

constantly. To that end, "The Mentalist," "Mike & Molly" and "Undercover Boss" will all return next season; it's just not certain when. New series starring Matthew Perry, Josh Duhamel and Patricia Arquette were all ordered but won't appear in the fall.

"There are other networks that wish they had these shows for their fall schedules," Tassler said.

Other new series planned by CBS:

—"Stalker," starring Dylan McDermott as a detective

investigating stalking incidents.

—"The McCarthys," a comedy about a sports-crazed Boston family.

—"Battle Creek," with Duhamel and Dean Cain as a mismatched law enforcement team in Michigan.

—"CSI: Cyber," a high-tech spinoff of "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" starring Arquette.

—"The Odd Couple," a comedy remake with Perry as the slob and Thomas Lennon as his neat-freak friend. □

Conan O'Brien to stay up late at TBS through 2018

NEW YORK (AP) — Team Coco will continue to play for TBS for four more years. The network says Conan O'Brien will be sticking around with his late-night hour through 2018.

"Conan" premiered on TBS in November 2010. It airs Monday through Thursday at 11 p.m. Eastern time.

The announcement Wednesday comes with the late-night landscape in flux at rival networks. In recent months Jimmy Fallon has taken over NBC's "Tonight Show" from Jay Leno, while David Letterman has announced his retirement next year from CBS' "Late Show," with Stephen Colbert taking over.

Before joining TBS, O'Brien

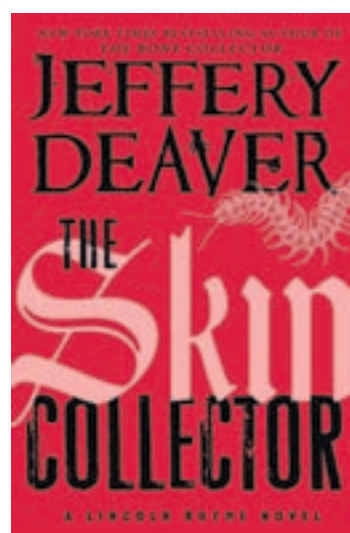


In this Dec. 12, 2013, file photo, talk show host Conan O'Brien arrives for the Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences awards in Moffett Field, Calif. Associated Press

had hosted NBC's "Late Night" followed by a brief stint as star of "Tonight."

Recently TBS announced that in 2015, O'Brien will become the first late-night host to broadcast his show from San Diego's Comic-Con. □

Review: 'The Skin Collector' is tense thriller



This book cover image released by Grand Central Publishing shows "The Skin Collector," by Jeffery Deaver. Associated Press

JEFF AYERS
Associated Press
Jeffery Deaver brings back detective Lincoln Rhyme in his tense new thriller, "The Skin Collector."

Rhyme and his colleagues must face a killer inspired by a maniac known as the Bone Collector (Rhyme's first case), who tattoos his victims with a cryptic word or phrase. At first the message seems meaningless, but Rhyme quickly figures out there will be more victims to complete the puzzle.

A survivor of an attack spots a bizarre centipede tattoo on the attacker's arm. This clue leads investigators to tattoo parlors to try and learn who designed and inked the artwork. Pages from an out-of-print book are discovered at one of the crime scenes, and Rhyme soon deciphers the text as from a book chronicling him and his methods. This antagonist has studied Rhyme and can anticipate

his every move — even plant evidence to lead police astray. How can Rhyme stop a madman who seems to know what he's going to do before he does?

Rhyme has a superior mind, and the people he surrounds himself with are the best of the best in the police department. The story becomes all about following the evidence, even when it contradicts the facts.

Deaver's ability to tell the reader everything and still manipulate the story with diabolical twists is the sign of a master at work. Readers unfamiliar with Lincoln Rhyme will find a detective that rivals Sherlock Holmes, and fans will enjoy the familial and reflective aspects of previous cases. □

Read, Kids, Read



FRANK BRUNI
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As an uncle I'm inconsistent about too many things. Birthdays, for example. My nephew Mark had one Sunday, and I didn't remember - and send a text - until 10 p.m., by which point he was asleep. School productions, too. I saw my niece Bella in "Seussical: The Musical" but missed "The Wiz." She played Toto, a feat of trans-species transfiguration that not even Meryl, with all of her accents, has pulled off. But about books, I'm steady. Relentless. I'm incessantly asking my nephews and nieces what they're reading and why they're not reading more. I'm reliably hurling novels at them, and also at friends' kids. I may well be responsible for 10 percent of all sales of "The Fault in Our Stars," a teenage love story to be released as a movie next month. Never have I spent money with fewer regrets, because I believe in reading - not just in its power to transport but in its power to transform.

So I was crestfallen Monday, when a new report by Common Sense Media came out. It showed that 30 years ago, only 8 percent of 13-year-olds and 9 percent of 17-year-olds said that they "hardly ever" or never read for pleasure. Today, 22 percent of 13-year-olds and 27 percent of 17-year-olds say that. Fewer than 20 percent of 17-year-olds now read for pleasure "almost every day." Back in 1984, 31 percent did. What a marked and depressing change.

I know, I know: This sounds like a foggy's crotchety lament. Or, worse, like self-interest. Professional writers arguing for vigorous reading are dinosaurs begging for a last breath. We're panhandlers with a better vocabulary. But I'm coming at this differently, as someone convinced that reading does things - to the brain, heart and spirit - that movies, television, video games and the rest of it cannot.

There's research on this, and it's cited in a recent article in The Guardian by Dan Hurley, who wrote that after "three years interviewing psychologists and neuroscientists around the world," he'd concluded that "reading and intelligence have a relationship so close as to be symbiotic."

In terms of smarts and success, is

reading causative or merely correlated? Which comes first, "The Hardy Boys" or the hardy mind? That's difficult to unravel, but several studies have suggested that people who read fiction, reveling in its analysis of character and motivation, are more adept at reading people, too: at sizing up the social whirl around them. They're more empathetic. God knows we need that.

Late last year, neuroscientists at Emory University reported enhanced neural activity in people who'd been given a regular course of daily reading, which seemed to jog the brain: to raise its game, if you will.

Some experts have doubts about that experiment's methodology, but I'm struck by how its findings track something my friends and I often discuss. If we spend our last hours or minutes of the night reading rather than watching television, we wake the next morning with thoughts less jumbled, moods less jangled. Reading has bequeathed what meditation promises. It has smoothed and focused us.

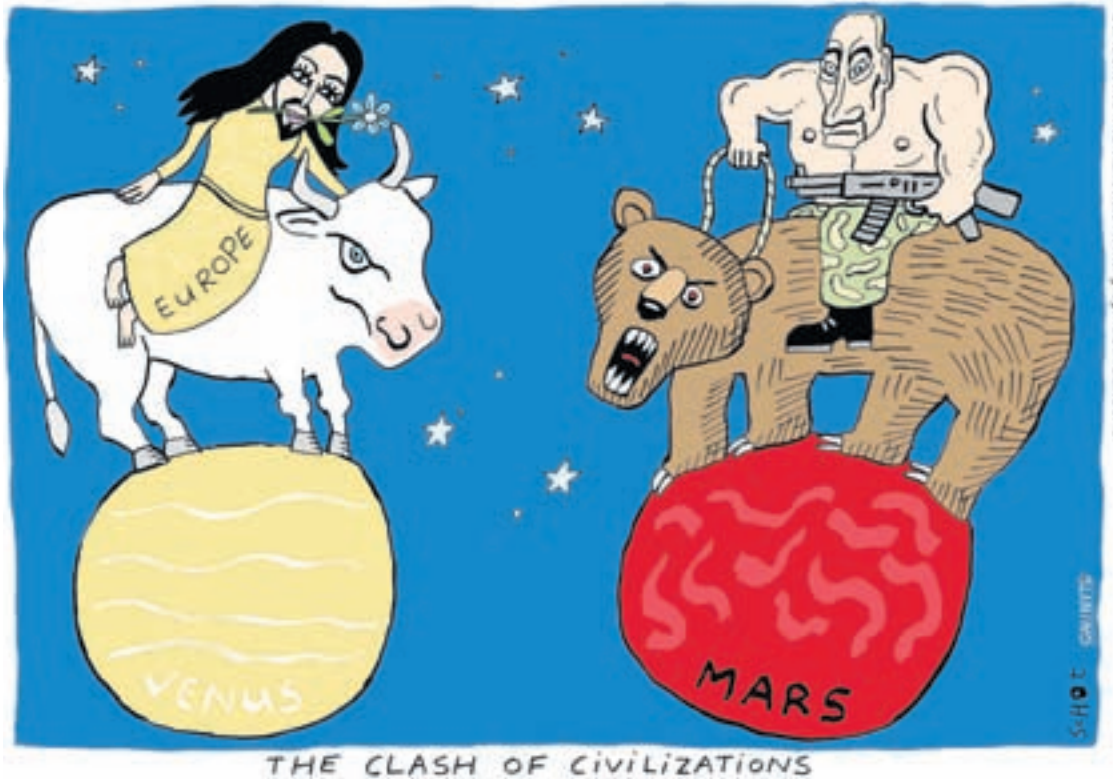
Maybe that's about the quiet of reading, the pace of it. At Success Academy Charter Schools in New York City, whose students significantly outperform most peers statewide, the youngest kids all learn and play chess, in part because it hones "the ability to focus and concentrate," said Sean O'Hanlon, who supervises the program. Doesn't reading do the same?

Daniel Willingham, a psychology professor at the University of Virginia, framed it as a potentially crucial corrective to the rapid metabolism and sensory overload of digital technology. He told me that it can demonstrate to kids that there's payoff in "doing something taxing, in delayed gratification." A new book of his, "Raising Kids Who Read," will be published later this year.

Before talking with him, I arranged a conference call with David Levithan and Amanda Maciel. Both have written fiction in the young adult genre, whose current robustness is cause to rejoice, and they rightly noted that the intensity of the connection that a person feels to a favorite novel, with which he or she spends eight or 10 or 20 hours, is unlike any response to a movie.

That observation brought to mind a moment in "The Fault in Our Stars" when one of the protagonists says that sometimes, "You read a book and it fills you with this weird evangelical zeal, and you become convinced that the shattered world will never be put back together unless and until all living humans read the book."

Books are personal, passionate. They stir emotions and spark thoughts in a manner all their own, and I'm convinced that the shattered world has less hope for repair if reading becomes an ever smaller part of it. □



Crazy Climate Economics



PAUL KRUGMAN
© 2014 New York Times

Everywhere you look these days, you see Marxism on the rise. Well, OK, maybe you don't - but conservatives do. If you so much as mention income inequality, you'll be denounced as the second coming of Joseph Stalin; Rick Santorum has declared that any use of the word "class" is "Marxism talk." In the right's eyes, sinister motives lurk everywhere - for example, George Will says the only reason progressives favor trains is their goal of "diminishing Americans' individualism in order to make them more amenable to collectivism."

So it goes without saying that Obamacare, based on ideas originally developed at the Heritage Foundation, is a Marxist scheme - why, requiring that people purchase insurance is practically the same as sending them to gulags.

And just wait until the Environmental Protection Agency announces rules intended to slow the pace of climate change. Until now, the right's climate craziness has mainly been focused on attacking the science. And it has been quite a spectacle: At this point almost all card-carrying conservatives endorse the view that climate change is a gigantic hoax, that thousands of research papers showing a warming planet - 97 percent of the literature - are the product of a vast international conspiracy. But as the Obama administra-

tion moves toward actually doing something based on that science, crazy climate economics will come into its own.

You can already get a taste of what's coming in the dissenting opinions from a recent Supreme Court ruling on power-plant pollution. A majority of the justices agreed that the EPA has the right to regulate smog from coal-fired power plants, which drifts across state lines. But Justice Antonin Scalia didn't just dissent; he suggested that the EPA's proposed rule - which would tie the size of required smog reductions to cost - reflected the Marxist concept of "from each according to his ability." Taking cost into consideration is Marxist? Who knew? And you can just imagine what will happen when the EPA, buoyed by the smog ruling, moves on to regulation of greenhouse gas emissions.

What do I mean by crazy climate economics? First, we'll see any effort to limit pollution denounced as a tyrannical act. Pollution wasn't always a deeply partisan issue: Economists in the George W. Bush administration wrote paeans to "market based" pollution controls, and in 2008 John McCain made proposals for cap-and-trade limits on greenhouse gases part of his presidential campaign. But when House Democrats actually passed a cap-and-trade bill in 2009, it was attacked as, you guessed it, Marxist. And these days Republicans come out in force to oppose even the most obviously needed regulations, like the plan to reduce the pollution that's killing Chesapeake Bay.

Second, we'll see claims that any effort to limit emissions will have what Sen. Marco Rubio is already calling "a devastating impact on our economy."

Why is this crazy? Normally, conservatives extol the magic of markets and the adaptability of the private sector, which is sup-

posedly able to transcend with ease any constraints posed by, say, limited supplies of natural resources. But as soon as anyone proposes adding a few limits to reflect environmental issues - such as a cap on carbon emissions - those all-capable corporations supposedly lose any ability to cope with change.

Now, the rules the EPA is likely to impose won't give the private sector as much flexibility as it would have had in dealing with an economywide carbon cap or emissions tax. But Republicans have only themselves to blame: Their scorched-earth opposition to any kind of climate policy has left executive action by the White House as the only route forward.

Furthermore, it turns out that focusing climate policy on coal-fired power plants isn't bad as a first step. Such plants aren't the only source of greenhouse gas emissions, but they're a large part of the problem - and the best estimates we have of the path forward suggest that reducing power-plant emissions will be a large part of any solution.

What about the argument that unilateral U.S. action won't work, because China is the real problem? It's true that we're no longer No. 1 in greenhouse gases - but we're still a strong No. 2. Furthermore, U.S. action on climate is a necessary first step toward a broader international agreement, which will surely include sanctions on countries that don't participate.

So the coming firestorm over new power-plant regulations won't be a genuine debate - just as there isn't a genuine debate about climate science. Instead, the airwaves will be filled with conspiracy theories and wild claims about costs, all of which should be ignored. Climate policy may finally be getting somewhere; let's not let crazy climate economics get in the way. □

A Funny Name, a Serious Sport. Pickleball, Anyone?

PETER T. KILBORN

© 2014 New York Times

GAINESVILLE, Va. - Maybe it was the whimsical name - pickleball - that got baby boomers to try the game. A hybrid of racket and paddle sports, it was not notably new. Pickleball began on Bainbridge Island, Washington, where legend has it that Pickles, the resident cocker spaniel, would chase the errant ball. It was Pickles' ball, thus the

and skis, and too mobile or proud for shuffleboard, boomers are carving up underused volleyball, basketball and tennis courts to bring pickleball to their gyms and parks, their country clubs and retirement communities. Players are "picklers." They "pickle." Lose, they're "pickled." Perhaps no organized sport since baseball, football and basketball matches pickleball's seduction of so

in doubles), and at about half the size of a tennis court, it is more like a badminton court. The ball is hard, hollow and perforated, a modified whiffle ball. Like table tennis, pickleball is played with a paddle, about 8 inches wide and 15 inches long, including the handle, faced with plywood, graphite or composite. In singles or doubles, players serve underhand and diagonally from one

Park District in Illinois to stop pickleballing at new courts that the department installed near their homes. In January, the court ruled for the parks. Buy a house near a recreational park, the court basically said, and you set yourself up for some noise.

Near the community clubhouse of the Heritage Hunt retiree development of \$250,000 to \$700,000 homes in Gainesville, Vir-

71, a retired map services worker for the federal government. "He's spanking new," Gladstone said. "You get a new guy like Ron and pair him with a good player. That's how you get them into the game."

"You need good enough knees," Gladstone said, "a good back, good eye-hand coordination, good balance. That probably eliminates two-thirds of the people who live here."

When newcomers appear, she checks them out. "Are you well enough to play?" she asks. "I can tell immediately who should come back, but I can't tell them that." Watching Foltz start, she said, "He's qualified."

She dispatched him to play with experienced players like Ralph Tapp, 70, who spent a career with the Agriculture Department's Agricultural Marketing Service. He wears a deeply carved gold rock of a ring. It commemorates the 40th anniversary of his Oklahoma State University basketball team's winning the Big Eight Conference in 1965. "I've been playing this for five or six years," he said.

Tapp is tall, limber and strong, and lethal catching a lob that he slams at his foe's toes.

Wilier players like Devaney tend toward "dinking" the ball - tipping it barely over the net, which, with a twist of the wrist, produces a little bounce.

For the hardy and quick, pickleball is easy to learn. A good paddle costs around \$70 and the ball \$2. With portable nets and posts, players can set up a court on any hard surface for less than \$300.

Helen White, 61, is the Pickleball Association's ambassador for an area around Arlington, Virginia. Last year at the National Senior Games in Cleveland, she won a silver medal for her 60-to-65 women's age group. Retired from a web management job at AARP, White brings beginners together with experienced picklers to learn and to play. "It's all about living your passion," she said. □



Esta Gladstone, right, with Margareta Bennett, play pickleball at the Heritage Hunt retirement community in Gainesville, Va.. Twice a week, Gladstone assembles players for two hours of doubles for the hybrid of racket and paddle sports that has become popular among seniors.

(Drew Angerer/The New York Times)

name.

Here and there, mostly in the Northwest, pickleball drew some interest. But nearly a half-century since its creation, pickleball has reached critical mass. It has hooked the hardy and quick among the 77 million Americans who began streaming into retirement three years ago at 65. "That is where the growth is coming from," said Justin Maloof, executive director of the USA Pickleball Association in Surprise, Arizona. The association counts 150,000 active players now, almost triple the number in 2010, and Maloof is sure there are many more he can't track.

Too impatient for golf, too prudent for skateboards

wide a swath of the population. Last year pickleball was admitted to the National Senior Games, the first new sport in 20 years. States, counties and cities are adding pickleball to their games. The District of Columbia does not have a single permanent pickleball court, but in March the city added the sport to its senior games.

Pickleball's precursors are tennis, table tennis and badminton.

The game is played on a smooth, hard surface, usually concrete, blacktop or a gymnasium floor. The court resembles a tennis court, but its net is a bit lower. It doesn't have alleys for doubles (although the game is often played

side of the baseline, then the other. The ball must bounce before the serve is returned, and, unlike in tennis, the return, too, must bounce. Then volleying, or hitting midair before a bounce, can begin.

The play can be dainty and slow, or it can be fast and ferocious. Pickleball's appeal to older adults lies in its kindness to joints and bones. Most play doubles, so they can hit most balls within one or two steps.

Pickleball can stir resistance from neighbors. They complain that the incessant thwack of the paddles rattles their ears worse than children slamming skateboards on asphalt. In 2009, two homeowners sued the Rockford

ginia, 40 miles west of Washington, are two pristine tennis courts that are not often used for tennis. Three years ago, Esta Gladstone, 70, a resident and semiretired photographer, beat back the tennis lobby to lower the nets two inches and paint red pickleball lines inside the white tennis lines.

Twice a week, Gladstone assembles players for two hours of doubles. On a sunny and brisk Thursday in April, 10 showed up. The first was Jill Devaney, 53, a former tennis player. Tennis, she said, had become too fast and muscular. She can control a pickleball better. "It's more of a finesse game," she said.

Next was Ronald Foltz,